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Alliances DawnClan

Thanks to LightningStrikeTC for his book How to Write a Warriors FanFic. It helped a lot! On to the clans!

DawnClan

Leader: Branchstar- tabby she-cat with oak-colored fur and bright blue eyes

Deputy: Draketail- tabby tom with mud-colored fur and sky blue eyes

Medicine Cat: Willowheart- old tom with spotted gray fur and green eyes

Warriors:

Streamfur- gray tabby tom with blue tinges and blue eyes

Clawtail- orange tom with darker patches that look like clawmarks on the fur, sand-yellow eyes

Wingheart- white tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Sootclaw- dark gray she-cat with blood-red eyes

Winterstorm- beautiful white she-cat with light amber eyes

Blackpelt- huge tabby tom with black fur and green eyes

Sparklefur- small light gray she-cat with baby blue eyes

Grapevine- tabby tom with pale black pelt and purple eyes

Horsetail- light brown tortoiseshell tom with deep black eyes

Whiteclaw- small pale gray tortoiseshell she-cat with amber eyes

Brickheart- red-brown tom with green eyes

Queens:

Heartclaw- pale tortoiseshell with sand-yellow eyes; oldest queen in the Nursery

Dapplecoat- pale yellow tabby with blue-green eyes

Sizzlestorm- deep orange tortoiseshell with amber eyes

Petalflower- silver tabby with deep yellow eyes

Apprentices:

Dirtpaw- pale brown tom with green eyes; mentor Whiteclaw

Amberpaw- amber she-cat with water-blue eyes; mentor Willowheart

Naturepaw- bright yellow tortoiseshell tom with green eyes; mentor Draketail

Antpaw- light black she-cat with amber eyes; mentor Grapevine

Dragonpaw- yellow-orange she-cat with darker stripes and blue eyes; mentor Wingheart

Lapispaw- blue-black tabby tom with amber eyes; mentor Streamfur

Elders:

Brokenear- pale white tabby tom with green eyes; one whole ear missing; oldest tom in DawnClan

Applestorm- ginger tortoiseshell tom with blue eyes

Losteye- pale orange tabby she-cat with deep black eyes; half blind;

oldest cat in DawnClan

Alliances FireClan

Leader: Twilightstar- midnight gray tabby she-cat with blue eyes

Deputy: Hollowtrunk- dark brown tortoiseshell tom with gray eyes

Medicine Cat: Magictail- dark orange tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Warriors:

Blazepelt- tabby tom with fire orange fur and green eyes

Brokentooth- tortoiseshell she-cat with blood-red eyes; one broken fang

Doveheart- tabby she-cat with bright white fur and dark green eyes

Blacktail- tabby tom with white fur, a jet black tail, and blue eyes

Sprintclaw- tortoiseshell tom with white, bracken, and black patches, and green eyes

Sagefur- pale white tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Hailstorm- ice-white tabby tom with blue-green eyes

Amberstorm- amber tortoiseshell she-cat with sand-yellow eyes

Hugefoot- small ginger tabby tom with large paws

Lightningpelt- electric yellow tabby she-cat with blue eyes

Queens:

Yellowflower- yellow tabby with amber eyes

Fastpelt- gray tortoiseshell with blue eyes

Thundercloud- cloud gray tabby with green eyes; oldest queen in the Nursery

Apprentices:

Shadowpaw- dark black tabby tom with red eyes; mentor Amberstorm

Goldenpaw- golden tortoiseshell she-cat with blue eyes; mentor Magictail

Jaypaw- silver tabby she-cat with amber eyes; mentor Hollowtrunk

Shardpaw- amber-blue tortoiseshell tom with green eyes; mentor Doveheart

Elders:

Sharpclaw- dark gray tabby tom with blue eyes; oldest cat in FireClan

Duskfur- small light black tortoiseshell she-cat; retired deputy

Alliances ForestClan

Leader: Mousestar- brown tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Deputy: Brightpelt- bright white tortoiseshell tom with blue eyes

Medicine Cat: Happyfur- black tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes

Warriors:

Leafclaw- pale white tabby tom with blue-green eyes

Mountaintail- gray tabby she-cat with gray eyes

Gigaheart- light black tabby tom with blood-red eyes

Sunstroke- orange-yellow tortoiseshell she-cat with blue-green eyes

Oakstorm- dark brown tortoiseshell tom with dark gray eyes

Icicletail- ice-white tabby tom with amber eyes

Lionclaw- golden tortoiseshell she-cat with blue eyes

Loudcry- small dark gray tabby tom with large ears and blood-red eyes

Scentwhisker- huge golden tabby she-cat with green eyes

Plainfur- gray tortoiseshell tom with blue-green eyes

Thrushstorm- blue-black tabby she-cat with gray eyes

Queens:

Diamondheart- pale blue tabby with green eyes

Graytail- gray tortoiseshell with amber eyes

Shrewpelt- ginger tabby with sky-blue eyes

Apprentices:

Beepaw- black tabby tom with yellow eyes; mentor Thrushstorm

Snakepaw- pale black tortoiseshell tom with blood-red eyes; mentor Sunstroke

Fluffpaw- golden tabby tom with amber eyes; mentor Gigaheart

Dartpaw- white tortoiseshell tom with blue eyes; mentor Loudcry

Knotpaw- gray tabby she-cat with green eyes; mentor Lionclaw

Elders:

Jewelclaw- pale tabby she-cat with amber eyes; oldest she-cat in ForestClan

Rockpelt- brown tortoiseshell tom with blue eyes; oldest cat in ForestClan

Vinefur- gray-green tabby tom with green eyes; retired early due to failing hearing

Alliances CaveClan

Leader: Moonstar- moon-colored fur tabby tom with amber eyes

Deputy: Spiderclaw- black and gray spotted tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes; long tail

Medicine Cat: Fruitbat- blue-gray tortoiseshell tom with blue eyes

Warriors:

Drapefur- small light gray tabby she-cat with gray eyes

Orangetail- huge orange tabby tom with yellow eyes

Belchclaw- white tortoiseshell tom with small blue eyes

Deadleaf- small tortoiseshell she-cat with red eyes and black fur

Stonepool- tabby tom with stone gray fur and green eyes

Nightheart- pale black tabby she-cat with black eyes

Bladestorm- light gray tortoiseshell tom with dark blue eyes

Crackpelt- small light white tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Birdfeather- dark orange tortoiseshell she-cat with orange eyes

Queens:

Fernvine- orange-gray tabby with yellow eyes

Hollypelt- black-green tortoiseshell with red eyes

Lightcloud- white tabby with blood-red eyes

Apprentices:

Whirlpaw- gray tabby tom with blue eyes; mentor Deadleaf

Frozenpaw- dark white tortoiseshell she-cat with amber eyes; mentor Orangetail

Veilpaw- orange tortoiseshell tom with blue eyes; mentor Birdfeather

Heartpaw- golden tabby she-cat with yellow eyes; mentor Fruitbat

Elders:

Sharpclaw- blue-gray tabby tom with blue eyes; oldest tom in CaveClan

Greatfang- gray tortoiseshell she-cat with amber eyes; oldest cat in CaveClan

Chapter 1

"Dragonkit! Dragonkit! Today's our apprentice ceremony!"

Dragonkit slowly opened her eyes to see a blue-black tabby standing over her, gently nudging her with his snout. Dragonkit slowly stood up and followed the blue-black tabby. The blue black tabby was her brother, Lapiskit. He was running laps around the camp yesterday because he was so excited.

Their mother, Heartclaw, was grooming Antkit's fur so it was perfect for the apprentice ceremony. Naturekit was standing nearby, staring at his mother. When Branchstar was ready, she'd call a clan meeting to announce the kits' mentors.

This leaf-bare, though, has been a rough one for DawnClan. Greencough was spreading throughout the camp. Branchstar has only four lives left, and this worried the whole clan. Lapiskit trotted up to Heartclaw and sat under her, waiting to be groomed. Dragonkit took her turn after Lapiskit.

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey gather under the Jaggedrock!"

A voice rasped from outside of the nursery. The Jaggedrock was where Branchstar addressed the clan from. Heartclaw followed the cheerful kits as they trotted proudly out of the nursery. They stood away from the cluster of DawnClan cats, waiting to be called forward.

"This sunrise, we gather together to name four new apprentices. Come forward, you four." Branchstar said. Lapiskit and Antkit trotted together proudly, while Naturekit followed behind. Dragonkit was the last kit to sit under the Jaggedrock proudly. Branchstar gazed at each one of them, studying them carefully. She then stared into the cluster of cats gathered under her.

"From this day forward," Branchstar meowed, staring down at

Antkit, "until she has earned her warrior name, this apprentice will be called Antpaw." She stared into the massive cluster of cats until she set her eyes on one. "Grapevine," she mewed, "shall begin Antpaw's training. You are fast and skillful. Pass these skills down to Antpaw." Grapevine trotted up and touched noses with Antpaw. She giggled under his warm touch.

Branchstar repeated the process with Lapispaw and Naturepaw. Lapispaw's mentor is Streamfur, and Naturepaw's is Draketail. She set her eyes on Dragonkit at last. "From this day forward," Branchstar started, "until she has earned her warrior name, this apprentice will be called Dragonpaw." Dragonpaw stared down at her front paws nervously as Branchstar's piercing gaze burned at her. "Wingheart," Branchstar continued, setting her eyes on the young warrior. She had only been a warrior for two moons now. "You are ready for your first apprentice. You are cunning and wity. I hope you pass the skills I taught you down to Dragonpaw."

After a small silence, Wingheart slowly stood up. The white tabby's amber eyes studied Dragonpaw curiously before Wingheart mustered up the courage to bump noses with Dragonpaw. Being only two moons older than her, it was more of a denmate friendship rather than a apprentice mentor friendship.

"Antpaw! Lapispaw! Naturepaw! Dragonpaw!" The DawnClan cats shouted as Branchstar leapt down from the Jaggedrock. She gently licked the four new apprentices. Lapispaw's eyes shone with pride.

After all the cats went back to duties, the two older apprentices Amberpaw and Dirtpaw trotted over. Amberpaw and Dirtpaw were a moon older than them. There eyes shone with pride as they looked happily at the new apprentices. Their mother was Dapplecoat.

"We're so happy for you," Amberpaw whispered, gently licking Dragonpaw's ear. She cleaned the saliva off her ear when Wingheart trotted up to her. "Let's go check clan boundaries. How about that, Dragonpaw?"

Dragonpaw nodded eagerly and followed her new mentor into the forests of DawnClan.

A/N: Sorry for the short chapter. It is the first after all. I will try to post tomorrow. I'm sick right now. *cough cough* Anyways, see ya tomorrow!

Chapter 2

Dragonpaw trotted behind Wingheart as they explored the beautiful forest. The snow was crunching under Dragonpaw's paws as Wingheart lead her to the borders.

"It's beautiful," Dragonpaw whispered. "It is, isn't it? Especially during leaf-bare," Wingheart responded, pushing away a branch at her eye level. As they were walking, Wingheart suddenly stopped abruptly and pulled back Dragonpaw.

"This is FireClan borders," Wingheart meowed as Dragonpaw stared into the forest. There weren't many trees on their territory. Wingheart turned east a little while later. Dragonpaw trotted after her.

She stopped suddenly a little while later. "This is ForestClan," Wingheart meowed. Dragonpaw gazed into ForestClan's territory. The trees grew taller than in DawnClan or FireClan, and they were closer together. Wingheart led Dragonpaw a little to the west until they came upon four huge oak trees.

"This is Fourtrees," Wingheart explained as Dragonpaw climbed on top of the rock.

She looked into FireClan territory, then ForestClan, then an unknown clan. "That is CaveClan," Wingheart whispered into Dragonpaw's pricked ears.

***

"Let's return," Wingheart meowed as the sun sunk over the horizon. Dragonpaw nodded, then followed her through the forest once again.

As they arrived, Amberpaw and her mentor Willowheart, the medicine cat, greeted them. The medicine cat's spotted gray fur was blowing in the cold leaf-bare winds.

"Going to collect herbs?" Wingheart asked.

Willowheart nodded. "A few cats have fallen sick with Greencough," Amberpaw explained, "and sadly, Heartclaw is one of them." Dragonpaw's eyes widened worriedly. She bounded over to Willowheart's den.

Lapispaw and Antpaw were already there, sitting next to their sick mother. Dragonpaw gently licked her mother's fur. Naturepaw bounded in and leapt to his mother's side. "It's okay, kits," Heartclaw whispered weakly. She gently licked Dragonpaw's pelt.

Dragonpaw took one last look at her mother, then trotted over to the fresh kill pile. She took a small mouse and carried it to the apprentices' den. Dirtpaw was there, munching on a thrush. Dragonpaw sat away from him and started munching on her mouse.

Amberpaw trotted in with Lapispaw and Antpaw. She carried a squirrel in her mouth, and her brother and sister both carried a mouse. Amberpaw layed next to her brother and started eating. Naturepaw trotted in soon after, carrying a small rabbit. Soon after finishing her mouse, Dragonpaw fell asleep.

***

Dragonpaw opened her eyes to a dark forest. She looked around the trees. *I'm dreaming,* Dragonpaw thought as she trotted through the forest. She soon came across a gray tabby with blue eyes. Dragonpaw recognized the tabby as the leader before Branchstar that she'd heard of. It was Pearlstar.

"Pearlstar," Dragonpaw whispered, bowing.

"I have come from StarClan to share a message with you," the tom meowed, helping Dragonpaw up.

StarClan? Why me? Dragonpaw thought as she stared into the tabby's blue eyes.

"It is a prophecy. *Dawn, Forest, Fire and Cave will come together to save the forest from lurking danger.* Go to Fourtrees at sunrise the day after the next Gathering, which is in two days, Dragonpaw,"

Pearlstar whispered before he disappeared.

Small A/N: I may sound like I'm copying Midnight, but I'm not, guys. Just a disclaimer!

***

Dragonpaw woke up suddenly. Two days from now was the Gathering. She trotted outside and bumped into Grapevine. His purple eyes dug into her skin.

"Go get Antpaw for me," Grapevine ordered.

Dragonpaw nodded, then bolted back into the den. She shook Antpaw until her eyes opened a sliver. "Grapevine wants you," Dragonpaw whispered. Antpaw nodded, then rushed to Grapevine. He stared menacingly at Dragonpaw, then left with his apprentice. Wingheart peeked into the den a little while later.

"Do you want to train in the training hollow with Antpaw and Grapevine?" she asked.

Dragonpaw nodded.

"Let's go then!" she mewed, walking away. Dragonpaw could hear the pounding of Wingheart's paws as she trotted after Wingheart.

***

Dragonpaw and Wingheart arrived at the training hollow. Antpaw and Grapevine were sitting there, waiting for them. "Let's get started," Grapevine meowed.

"We're going to teach you the move we like to call the claw leap," Wingheart meowed. Grapevine stood facing away from Wingheart, who was about three fox-lengths away from him. She leapt into the air gracefully and, with sheathed claws, raked at Grapevine's back. "That's how you do it," Grapevine mewed, "Now you try." Antpaw stood where Grapevine was, facing away from Dragonpaw. She backed up about three fox lengths. Dragonpaw leapt, and with sheathed claws, raked at Antpaw's back.

"Can you teach us the counter?" Antpaw asked.

"Sure. Wingheart, come." Grapevine agreed.

They did the same thing, but Grapevine rolled forwards, causing Wingheart to fly off his back.

"Apprentice duties now," Grapevine ordered.

***

Dragonpaw and Antpaw carried bundles of moss to the elders' den. Brokenear and Applestorm were sharing tongues, Losteye a little way away from them. "Hello, Dragonpaw and Antpaw," Applestorm meowed a greeting. "Let us change your bedding," Dragonpaw meowed to the elders. "Of course, apprentices," Brokenear meowed.

While Dragonpaw and Antpaw changed their bedding, the elders told them stories of the previous clans, LionClan, TigerClan, and LeapordClan.

"Just as the rabbit thought it was going to get away, the TigerClan warrior pounced on it, killing it instantly. A LionClan warrior came along and saw the fresh kill in the TigerClan warrior's mouth. The LionClan warrior leapt at the TigerClan warrior, and they fought over the rabbit. Claws and teeth raked as they fought. In the end, the LionClan warrior ate the rabbit in glory while the TigerClan warrior lay dead."

Dragonpaw and Antpaw listened anxiously after they finished changing the bedding. Soon, Dirtpaw peeked his head in.

"It's time to eat," he meowed, then trotted towards the fresh kill pile. First, the apprentices brought the elders their food, then they got their own food and ate in the elders' den with them.

As Dragonpaw entered the apprentices' den, she heard a shriek from the medicine den. Dragonpaw rushed in and saw Lapispaw sitting over their mother, who was dead. Dragonpaw meowed in grief then gently licked Heartclaw's pelt. Her eyes were dull. Branchstar entered the medicine den with the elders, and took Heartclaw's body. She placed it under the Jaggedrock, then she let everyone

grieve. Heartclaw's mate, Clawtail, sat over her body, his yellow eyes piercing her skin.

After she had finished grieving, Dragonpaw clamoured into the apprentices' den and fell asleep quickly.

***

Dragonpaw opened her eyes to the dark forest again. *Why is this place important?* Dragonpaw thought as she trotted through the forest. Dragonpaw soon came across Heartclaw, her mother.

"Heartclaw!" Dragonpaw shouted, rushing up her.

"I just wanted to come to say that I loved you, Dragonpaw. Make me proud."

Heartclaw vanished soon after that. Dragonpaw searched around the forest until she was woken up by Dirtpaw. "Let's go hunting!" he exclaimed, bounding away. Dragonpaw followed.

There was barely any snow on the ground. Leaf-bare was coming to an end. "Do you want to go to the Gathering?" Dirtpaw asked, his tail twitching with excitement. Dragonpaw nodded. She could meet cats from other clans. "I do too," he admitted.

***

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey gather under the Jaggedrock!" Branchstar rasped.

Dragonpaw and Lapispaw sat next to each other. Branchstar was announcing who'd go to the Gathering.

"I want," Branchstar began, "Draketail, Willowheart, Wingheart, Sootclaw, Winterstorm, Whiteclaw, Brickheart, Amberpaw, Dirtpaw, and Dragonpaw to go to the Gathering."

Dragonpaw meowed a quiet praise to StarClan. "If I announced your name, eat up and rest. We leave at moonrise." Branchstar leapt off the Jaggedrock. Dragonpaw grabbed a mouse from the fresh kill pile and ate next to Dirtpaw. "We're going to the Gathering!"

Dirtpaw exclaimed happily.

***

Dragonpaw was standing next to Wingheart, who's amber eyes were staring straight ahead. *It's my first Gathering!* Dragonpaw thought excitedly. As Dragonpaw trotted into Fourtrees, she saw other cats from other clans talking to each other. Branchstar perched herself on the rock. FireClan's leader, Twilightstar, was perched on the rock, her shoulders high. Her deputy, Hollowtrunk, was right under her.

ForestClan's leader, Mousestar, was talking with her deputy, Brightpelt.

CaveClan's leader, Moonstar, was sitting next to his deputy, Spiderclaw.

Mousestar's yowl signaled the Gathering was starting. Moonstar leapt up onto the rock. His ears were twitching. "I will speak first." Branchstar meowed. "I have one new apprentice here, Dragonpaw, and three back at camp, Naturepaw, Lapispaw, and Antpaw." "Naturepaw! Dragonpaw! Lapispaw! Antpaw!" Draketail, Wingheart, Brickheart, Winterstorm, and Whiteclaw started it, and soon, every DawnClan cat was cheering the new apprentices' names.

"My turn," Twilightstar meowed bitterly. "Twolegs have started invading our river." A river ran through all the clans. That was the clans' water source. "They are poisoning our water. Soon it will happen to all of you." Twilightstar spat. Moonstar talked next. "Prey is becoming better now that leaf-bare is coming to an end. CaveClan is thriving."

Mousestar talked next. "ForestClan has little prey, and our queens are giving life to new kits every moon. ForestClan wishes for hunting rights on all territory." Dragonpaw gasped. Branchstar would never allow that.

Small A/N: Mousestar will NOT be the next Brokenstar, I promise you.

Draketail hissed. "DawnClan will never let your clan hunt on our territory." Branchstar stared at Mousestar. "What a stupid thing to ask, Mousestar," Twilightstar, Branchstar, and Moonstar meowed at once. Mousestar's head hung low at the other leaders' response. Mousestar lifted her head and prepared to leap at Twilightstar, but clouds blocked the full moon. "StarClan is angry!" Willowheart meowed, staring at the moon. "This gathering is over," Branchstar hissed. She leapt off the rock and headed towards camp, her clan following after her.

***

Antpaw and Naturepaw ran up to greet them as they arrived. "How was the Gathering?" They asked at the same time. "Mousestar demanded hunting rights on our territory, but Branchstar didn't let her," Dirtpaw responded. Dirtpaw and Dragonpaw clamoured into the apprentices' den and fell asleep quickly.

Dragonpaw woke up to the sun rising. Making sure no one noticed her, she slipped out of camp and into the forest. She rushed towards Fourtrees.

When Dragonpaw arrived, she leapt up onto the rock Branchstar had stood on not even a day ago. Her scent was stale. A CaveClan warrior that she recognized from the Gathering before stood where Moonstar stood. It was Birdfeather. She meowed a greeting.

A little later, a ForestClan apprentice named Dartpaw leapt on the rock where Mousestar stood. He quickly groomed his pelt. "Hello, Dartpaw," Birdfeather meowed sweetly. Dartpaw ignored it and continued grooming his pelt.

Soon, the FireClan warrior Blazepelt leapt onto the rock where Twilightstar was. Dragonpaw quickly meowed a greeting.

"You three had the dream?" Birdfeather asked. Dragonpaw, Dartpaw, and Blazepelt all nodded. Birdfeather nodded too. "You two are warriors, though!" Dartpaw meowed. "And you two are apprentices," Blazepelt replied. Dartpaw stepped back. Dragonpaw stepped forward. "What does this evil mean?" Dragonpaw asked. Birdfeather shrugged. Dartpaw stepped forward. "It could be

Mousestar," he hissed, "our newest apprentice, Fluffpaw, is only four moons old." *Four moons? That's too young!* Dragonpaw thought.

Blazepelt stepped forward, locking eyes with Dartpaw. "It could also be a dog pack. Remember what happen in ThunderClan?" ThunderClan had a dog pack issue. ThunderClan's leader, Bluestar, sacrificed herself to save who would be the next leader, Firestar. ThunderClan, ShadowClan, RiverClan, and WindClan were four clans that lived very far away from DawnClan, FireClan, ForestClan, and CaveClan.

"If we don't know, why don't we just wait?" Birdfeather suggested. "Let's meet here in exactly a moon," Dragonpaw suggested. Everyone nodded, then went their separate ways. Dragonpaw headed back to camp.

"Where have you been, Dragonpaw?" Wingheart asked as Dragonpaw returned. Dragonpaw shrugged. "Let's go hunting with Antpaw and Grapevine!" she suggested. Dragonpaw nodded, then she saw Antpaw with her mentor. Grapevine's purple eyes were on her. Antpaw trotted happily towards Dragonpaw. "Let's go hunting, sis!" Antpaw exclaimed. Dragonpaw left camp with Wingheart, Antpaw, and Grapevine.

Small A/N: So, this chapter is 2041 words... talk about an extension! I write on my iPad, and it took 44% to write this chapter. Woah! See you in the next chapter!

Chapter 3

After they had finished training, Grapevine had ordered them to go hunt. While Dragonpaw was hunting, she had the creeping feeling that Grapevine was watching her.

"Dragonpaw! Look what I caught!" Antpaw cried.

Dragonpaw trotted over to Antpaw, a dead vole laying at her feet. "It's my first vole!" She exclaimed, kicking dirt over it to hide it. Antpaw then trotted away. Dragonpaw headed eastward.

Dragonpaw soon heard crunching leaves a little forward. *What might that be? Prey? A border patrol?* Dragonpaw thought, diving into the nearest bush for cover. She peeked her head out of the other side of the bush.

Dragonpaw then smelled an unfamiliar scent. Wingheart had taught her what this scent was. *ForestClan! What are they doing here?* Dragonpaw thought aggressively. She overheard three ForestClan cats talking.

"Sunstroke! Lionclaw! Be quiet! A patrol might here you," a familiar voice hissed.

"Okay, Mousestar, just let us catch the prey we need and leave." Sunstroke snapped back. Dragonpaw, as quiet as possible, dashed out of the bushes and into camp. Branchstar was chatting with Draketail, her deputy. "Branchstar, ForestClan is stealing prey," Dragonpaw panted, "and Mousestar is with them." Branchstar hissed. "Draketail, take your best warriors. Dragonpaw will lead us to the ForestClan cats."

"Brickheart! Horsetail! Grapevine! Blackpelt! Streamfur! Sootclaw! Winterstorm!" Draketail called. The warriors appeared from camp and rushed to Draketail's side. "Dragonpaw, lead the way," Draketail meowed.

***

Dragonpaw smelled for ForestClan. She caught scent of them, and bounded towards the scent. Draketail and his warriors followed after her. She soon came up to Mousestar, Lionclaw, and Sunstroke.

"What are you doing on DawnClan territory?" Branchstar hissed, claws unsheathed.

Mousestar stared at Branchstar, Draketail, and her warriors, then stared back at Sunstroke and Lionclaw. "Go to the camp," Mousestar hissed. Sunstroke nodded, then bounded away, Lionclaw following after. "You know, Branchstar," Mousestar hissed, "I really am itching for bloodshed." Branchstar shooed away her warriors. "This is Mousestar's and I's battle," she said abruptly.

Branchstar leapt at Mousestar, claws unsheathed. She raked at Mousestar's pelt, ripping off fur. Mousestar countered by leaping up onto a branch and then falling down onto Branchstar's back. She started raking at Branchstar's back. Branchstar's oak colored fur was flying. Branchstar rolled forward, sending Mousestar off her back.

Mousestar rushed up towards Branchstar and leapt. She twisted in midair and landed on Branchstar's back, biting into her neck. Branchstar collapsed. Mousestar trotted away victoriously. "Well, a group of my warriors are currently attacking your camp, Draketail," Mousestar hissed before bounding away. Branchstar slowly stood up. "We need to get back to camp. ForestClan is attacking," Draketail meowed. Branchstar nodded shakily, then bounded towards camp.

***

As they arrived, a group of shrieking cats were fighting. Rolling and clawing, the battle was vigorous. The warriors Draketail had called rushed into battle.

Dragonpaw rushed up to Wingheart and helped her attack ForestClan's deputy, Brightpelt. Wingheart and Brightpelt both were injured. "I'll take him front the front, you take him from the back," Wingheart whispered into Dragonpaw's ear. Dragonpaw nodded, then rushed around to the other side of Brightpelt. Wingheart clawed at Brightpelt's face while Dragonpaw clawed at his back. Brightpelt went running out of camp soon after.

Dragonpaw then tackled a dark brown tortoiseshell tom. The tom hissed, then clawed at Dragonpaw. Dragonpaw's cuts stung, but she pushed through it. She rushed under the tortoiseshell and leapt onto his back, clawing it. Soon, a piercing cry rung in Dragonpaw's ears: "Oakstorm, I'm coming to help you!"

A gray tabby she-cat knocked Dragonpaw off Oakstorm's back. "Thanks, Mountaintail," Oakstorm whispered. "No worries," Mountaintail replied as Oakstorm rushed into the battle. Mountaintail clawed at Dragonpaw. Dragonpaw ran about three fox lengths away and leapt onto Mountaintail's back, clawing at it. Mountaintail hissed, then tried to shake Dragonpaw off her back. Dragonpaw dug her claws into Mountaintail's back, holding on as the tabby she-cat thrashed around wildly. Dragonpaw nipped at her ears. Mountaintail finally bucked Dragonpaw off her back.

***

Soon, the last ForestClan cat went running. Willowheart and Amberpaw were rushing around, cleaning up everybody's wounds. Branchstar wouldn't let Willowheart tend to her wounds until everyone else was tended to. According to Sizzlestorm, the queen that guarded the Nursery, Branchstar had lost another life. Two lives in one day. Now Branchstar only had two lives left.

A piercing cry from Naturepaw told her that someone had died. Dragonpaw looked up to see Draketail lying dead on the ground. Once Willowheart finished with Branchstar, she trotted over. Branchstar sat over Draketail's corpse, grieving. Amberpaw and Dirtpaw were Draketail's kits, so they sat grieving, too. After Branchstar finished grieving, Whiteclaw spoke with Branchstar. She dragged Draketail's body over, then leapt up onto the Jaggedrock.

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey gather under the Jaggedrock!" Branchstar rasped.

The shocked DawnClan cats huddled together as Branchstar sat proudly over her clan.

"I have two announcements to make. First, the new deputy," she started. "But first, let us give thanks to StarClan for the life of Draketail. Tonight he sits with his fellow warriors among the stars."

Silence fell among the warriors, but Amberpaw, Dirtpaw, and Dapplecoat were at the back of the crowd. Dapplecoat, Draketail's mate, and his kits, Amberpaw and Dirtpaw, grieved for him as much as Branchstar.

"And now I shall name DawnClan's new deputy," Branchstar continued. "I say these words before the body of Draketail, so that his spirit may hear and approve of my choice."

Dragonpaw looked and saw most warriors staring pleadingly at Branchstar, hoping for a chance to become the second most respected cat in all of DawnClan, also the next leader when Branchstar eventually goes to StarClan.

"Grapevine," meowed Branchstar, "will be the new deputy of DawnClan."

Grapevine stood up proudly and trotted towards the front of the crowd, being congratulated by all the warriors who longed for this position.

"Draketail was also a mentor to young Naturepaw," Branchstar continued. "Since there must be no delay in the training of our apprentices, I shall appoint Naturepaw's new mentor immediately. Sootclaw, you are ready for another apprentice, so you will continue Naturepaw's training. You had a fine mentor in Grapevine, and I expect you to pass on some of the excellent skills you were taught."

Sootclaw stood up, chest swelling with pride, and touched noses with her new apprentice. Naturepaw looked up respectfully at

Sootclaw, but her brother's eyes were still dull with grief for his lost mentor.

"Did he fight well today?" Branchstar asked Whiteclaw. "Like a warrior," she replied.

Branchstar fixed her gaze onto Dirtpaw, as if that was a signal for him to come up. He trotted up and sat proudly under the Jaggedrock.

"I, Branchstar, leader of DawnClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. He has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend him to you as a warrior in his turn."

Branchstar narrowed her eyes into slits and stared down at the shaking pale brown tom. His green eyes stared down at his forepaws.

"Dirtpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend this clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do," Dirtpaw replied, trying to hold in his excitement. He wanted to dance around like a kit, as Dragonpaw could see from his stance.

"Then by the powers of StarClan I give you your warrior name: Dirtpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Dirtpelt. StarClan honors your bravery and strength, and we welcome you as a full warrior of DawnClan."

Branchstar stepped forward and rested her muzzle on top of Dirtpelt's bowed head. He bent lower and gave Branchstar a respectful lick, then straightened up and walked over to join the other warriors.

Amberpaw and Dragonpaw bounded over to Dirtpelt. "Congratulations, Dirtpelt!" Amberpaw meowed. Dirtpelt nodded. Dirtpelt could not speak until sunrise next morning: his silent vigil was tonight. It was moonrise, so Dirtpelt trotted over to the camp entrance and sat, staring at the moon, reflecting upon the life he'd committed to. Dragonpaw grabbed a vole from the fresh kill pile

and trotted over to Amberpaw, who was eating with Willowheart. "Greetings, young Dragonpaw," Willowheart meowed as Dragonpaw sat down and started chewing on her vole.

"Aren't you proud of your brother, Amberpaw?" Dragonpaw mewed to the amber apprentice. She nodded her head. "Of course I am! Father would've been so proud of him," she responded. "and today both of us are officially eight moons old. That means you're seven moons," Amberpaw added. Dragonpaw nodded. She finished up her vole, then trotted into the apprentices' den and fell asleep.

Chapter 4

Dragonpaw slowly opened her eyes to the bright morning light. She yawned, then slowly stood up and padded out of the apprentices' den. She decided to go hunting without waiting for anyone else to wake up.

The only other cats up besides Dragonpaw were Grapevine and Dirtpelt. Grapevine trotted over to the newly named warrior. "First day of newleaf. Perfect time for a vigil, isn't it?" Grapevine meowed. The pale brown tabby nodded. "Your vigil is over, Dirtpelt," Grapevine mewed. "Thank you, Grapevine. Congratulations on becoming deputy," he responded. Dirtpelt trotted into the warriors' den to get some rest.

Dragonpaw walked towards the entrance of the camp when she was spotted by Grapevine. "Where are you going?" he hissed. "Hunting," Dragonpaw replied. "Go, then. After you hunt, apprentice duties." Grapevine ordered. Dragonpaw nodded, then pelted out of camp.

***

Dragonpaw returned with a rabbit clamped in her jaws. The scent wafted up into her nose. She wanted to gobble it up, but in the words of the warrior code, 'The clan must be fed first'. She placed it down in the fresh kill pile and rushed back out to gather moss.

Dragonpaw trotted through the forest, staring at the forest. Newleaf was beautiful. She rushed up to the cave where the moss hung.

"I think there is a DawnClan cat coming," a voice meowed weakly inside the cave. Dragonpaw crouched and crept into the cave. There were three ForestClan apprentices: Beepaw, Fluffpaw, and Snakepaw.

Small A/N: I'm taking so much from the first two serieses? Serieses? Series.

"Why are you here?" Dragonpaw hissed, unsheathing her claws. "We fell sick yesterday with Greencough, but Mousestar wouldn't let Happyfur, our medicine cat, take care of us. So we came here in hope of being healed." Snakepaw explained. "Dartpaw said he knew you, so we thought we might've been welcomed," Beepaw continued. "We've been hiding here since last night, but a brown tabby chased us away," Fluffpaw finished. "You shouldn't be here without a warrior, *kit,*" Dragonpaw hissed. Fluffpaw backed away, afraid. "Our medicine cat apprentice might be nice enough to heal you, but you'll have to wait here until night. Snakepaw, Beepaw, Fluff*kit,* are you okay with that?" Dragonpaw meowed.

"Well, I'm now Snake*claw,*" Snakeclaw hissed. He then nodded. "I just need some moss," Dragonpaw mewed. The ForestClan cats shifted. Dragonpaw gathered some moss and left Beepaw, Fluffpaw, and Snakeclaw in the cave.

***

After she had finished Brokenear's, Losteye's, and Applestorm's bedding, Dragonpaw left. Wingheart was sitting down, eating a mouse. "Hello, Wingheart," Dragonpaw meowed. "Hello, Dragonpaw," Wingheart replied, gulping down the remnants of her mouse. "Do you want to train with Naturepaw and Sootclaw in the training hollow?" Wingheart asked. Dragonpaw nodded.

As Wingheart and Dragonpaw left camp, a patrol that consisted of Grapevine, Whiteclaw, Antpaw and Dirtpelt was just arriving. Grapevine's purple eyes stared Dragonpaw down as they passed by each other.

As Dragonpaw and Wingheart arrived, Naturepaw came bounding in. Sootclaw was sitting there, waiting for him. The two warriors meowed a greeting. "Now, let's focus on the under claw," Sootclaw mewed. "It's when you slide under your enemy's belly and claw at it," Wingheart explained. "Let's try," Sootclaw meowed.

Wingheart slid under Sootclaw's belly and, with sheathed claws, raked Sootclaw's belly. She climbed up on the other side of Sootclaw. "Let's try now, Dragonpaw," Naturepaw meowed.

Naturepaw slid under Dragonpaw's belly. Dragonpaw soon felt a searing pain on her belly. Naturepaw's claws were covered in blood.

"Naturepaw! Claws are always sheathed in the training hollow. Wingheart, go get Willowheart," Sootclaw ordered. Wingheart dashed out of the training hollow and towards camp. Dragonpaw watched her go.

"That wasn't on accident, Naturepaw," Sootclaw meowed disappointedly. "Claws don't accidentally unsheath. You must be punished. Once we get back to camp, Branchstar will decide your punishment." Naturepaw looked down at his paws.

Wingheart returned with Willowheart and Amberpaw. Amberpaw had a swathe of cobwebs on one of her paws, and Willowheart carried poppy seeds in his mouth. Amberpaw layed the cobwebs on Dragonpaw's belly, and Willowheart gave her a few poppy seeds. "Eat these." he whispered.

***

Dragonpaw limped back into camp, her belly wound stinging. The previous battle had injured her there already, making it worse. "What happened here? Is ForestClan back again?" Branchstar asked, approaching Dragonpaw.

"No Branchstar. Naturepaw unsheathed his claws in the training hollow, injuring Dragonpaw. He didn't do it on accident, Branchstar. He must be punished." Sootclaw hissed.

"I will think about his punishment, Sootclaw. Now go. Grapevine wants you on a patrol." Branchstar responded. Sootclaw bounded away. Willowheart and Amberpaw turned around and left soon after. Dragonpaw saw the sun sinking, and she wasn't hungry, so she layed down to sleep.

Pounding pawsteps told her Willowheart and Amberpaw had arrived. They were speaking with Branchstar.

"I am getting old, Branchstar. I request to go to the elders' den," Willowheart meowed. "What about Amberpaw, Willowheart?"

Branchstar asked. "We journeyed to Caverocks, Branchstar. The Nightstone is ready for Amberpaw to take over as medicine cat. Her medicine cat name is Amberfang, given to her by StarClan itself." Willowheart responded. "You may sleep in the elders' den, Willowheart. Amberfang, go ahead. The medicine den is yours now."

Amberfang crept into the medicine den. Dragonpaw dashed out of camp towards the moss cave.

Beepaw, Fluffpaw, and Snakeclaw were still there. "Come. Everyone's asleep." Dragonpaw meowed.

Beepaw climbed out of the cave, Fluffpaw and Snakeclaw soon after. They followed Dragonpaw to camp.

"Amberpaw," Dragonpaw whispered, trying to act like she'd never heard the conversation. Amberfang opened her eyes. "Amber*fang,* Dragonpaw," Amberfang replied. "I found some sick cats in the forest. They need your help."

"Okay." Amberfang replied.

***

After Beepaw, Fluffpaw, and Snakeclaw had finished being given treatment, Dragonpaw snook them out. A loud yowl had signaled to Dragonpaw they didn't go unnoticed. "ForestClan cats!" Horsetail yowled.

Chapter 5

Grapevine darted out of the warriors' den, looking unbelievably at the light brown tom. He trotted over to Horsetail and sat down next to him, gazing at the clearing. Dragonpaw brought the ForestClan cats out willingly, unable to stand the deputy's disappointed stare.

"What are these cats doing here, Dragonpaw?" Grapevine asked loudly as Branchstar climbed sleepily out of her den.

Snakeclaw trotted up to Grapevine, looking guilty. He studied Grapevine, then started to speak. Grapevine listened, tail swinging back and forth.

"I am Snakeclaw of ForestClan, and these are Beepaw and Fluffpaw." Snakeclaw motioned towards the shaking apprentices. "Greencough has spread across our camp, starting towards the end of leaf bare. Mousestar has only cared for the cats she cares about most, including herself, her kin, and her deputy. Mousestar hasn't let Happyfur take care of elders, queens and kits, and most warriors and apprentices, including us. We came in hope of being healed. Dragonpaw here tried to help us, but she got caught in the act."

Branchstar trotted over to the group of shaking cats. She stared at Beepaw and Fluffpaw, then she stared longer at Dragonpaw. "That was a kind thing to do, Dragonpaw," Branchstar finally mewed, "but that is still helping the enemy. You will be punished. Grapevine, you may decide your punishment."

Grapevine stared evilly at Dragonpaw, then trotted into the warriors' den. Dragonpaw crept into the apprentices' den and dozed off.

***

Dragonpaw woke up suddenly. Grapevine was nudging her. "I have decided your punishment, Dragonpaw," he hissed, "you must take

care of Petalflower. She is expecting kits in a few moons. You must get anything she needs, do anything she asks, until her kits are born. And, if you do everything I order you and Petalflower praises your help, you might get to see the kits."

Dragonpaw nodded and watched Grapevine head into the nursery. *He must be Petalflower's mate,* Dragonpaw thought as Wingheart trotted towards the apprentices' den. "We will train with Streamfur and Lapispaw," she meowed. Dragonpaw nodded, then trotted out of camp with Wingheart.

Dirtpelt, Sootclaw, and Naturepaw were just returning from a patrol. As past denmates, Dirtpelt meowed a friendly greeting, then headed towards Branchstar's den to report what he'd seen on the patrol.

Lapispaw and Streamfur were waiting in the training hollow as the apprentice and mentor arrived. Streamfur's gray fur had many blue tinges, hence the name Streamfur. He padded over to Wingheart and spoke with her. The two nodded, then turned to the willing apprentices.

"Today we will practice a few moves. Let's start with the jump-twist. Wingheart, if you may?" Streamfur mewed. "Just know, apprentices," he continued, "this is only a finishing blow."

Wingheart padded over to Streamfur, who was standing straight. Wingheart faced him about a fox length away. Streamfur leapt, and, in mid-air, he twisted, landing on Wingheart's back. He pretended to bite on her neck. "Lapispaw, Dragonpaw, now you try." Lapispaw and Dragonpaw faced a little away from each other, about a fox-length. Dragonpaw leapt, twisting in mid-air, landing on Lapispaw's back. She pretended to bite.

"Great job, Dragonpaw! Let's continue," Streamfur mewed.

***

It was the day after the Gathering. Dragonpaw had not come, but her sister Antpaw had told her about FireClan accusing DawnClan of trespassing. Moonstar defended Branchstar, but he still had some

suspicions. Dragonpaw was traveling to Fourtrees to meet Birdfeather, Blazepelt, and Dartpaw. Antpaw had said that Dartpaw was now a warrior and was named Dartspeed.

Dragonpaw leapt onto the Great Rock silently, waiting for the other three to arrive. Birdfeather and Blazepelt arrived together, purring as they stepped on together. Dartspeed arrived soon after.

"So, any sign?" Blazepelt meowed, grooming his pelt. "It could still be Mousestar. She attacked our camp. Branchstar lost two lives then," Dragonpaw responded.

"I still agree with what I said," Dartspeed mewed.

"Oh, you sure did," meowed a voice behind Dragonpaw. She yowled in surprise. Dragonpaw turned around to see a patrol consisting of Grapevine, Dirtpelt, Antpaw, and Clawtail. "What are you doing here?" Grapevine hissed angrily. "You're coming back with us. We'll tell Branchstar what you're doing." he snarled.

Small A/N: Sorry for the short chapter! I'll make up for it in the next one. Bye!

Chapter 6

It has been three moons since Dragonpaw was caught. The deputy still hadn't decided her punishment, and currently she was catching prey for Petalflower. The nursing queen was expecting the kits very, very soon, and Dragonpaw watched out for her if she wasn't doing apprentice duties, hunting, or training in the training hollow.

Dragonpaw trotted happily into camp, a plump vole clamped in her jaws. She entered the Nursery and layed the vole at Petalflower's feet. She was groaning loudly. Her swollen belly was very large.

"Dragonpaw," Petalflower whispered, "they're coming."

Dragonpaw darted out of the Nursery and into the medicine den. Losteye was complaining about joint aches, so she was laying in there, asleep. Amberfang was looking through some herbs. "Amberfang! Petalflower's kits are coming!" she yowled. Amberfang looked at Dragonpaw, then quickly gathered a bundle of herbs.

Amberfang behind her, she rushed into the Nursery. Petalflower was groaning louder, kicking. "Thank you for your help, Dragonpaw," Amberfang whispered, "but you may go now."

Dragonpaw darted out of the Nursery. Soon, mewling kits told Dragonpaw that they were here. She quietly entered the nursery to see three newborn kits. One was a bright orange she-cat with amber eyes and brown tinges, one was a black tom with purple eyes, like his father, and one was a silver tom with yellow eyes, like his mother.

"I've already decided their names. The orange she-cat will be Mudkit, because of her brown tinges. The black tom will be

Purplekit, because of his purple eyes. The silver tom will be Moonkit."

Mudkit, Purplekit, and Moonkit were already mewling for milk. As they drank their mother's milk, Branchstar entered the Nursery. "You can leave now. I want to look at DawnClan's future warriors."

Dragonpaw trotted out and bumped into Grapevine. "They are born, Grapevine," Dragonpaw whispered to the deputy. He bounded into the Nursery, excited to see his kin. As he looked at his newborns, Antpaw, Naturepaw, and Lapispaw bounded towards her. "Dragonpaw! Grapevine, Sootclaw, and Streamfur all say we're ready to become warriors!" they squealed.

They were all eleven moons old. Dragonpaw was planning to ask Wingheart about it, but Grapevine padded up to her. "I have the perfect punishment for what you did three moons ago, Dragonpaw," Grapevine hissed. "You'll stay an apprentice while your littermates become warriors! Perfect!" Dragonpaw bounded into the apprentices' den, in tears. Her littermates will become warriors while she's stuck being an apprentice!

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey gather under the Jaggedrock!"

Naturepaw, Antpaw, and Lapispaw looked excited as Branchstar called. They were becoming warriors, and Sizzlestorm's six moon old kits will become apprentices. *Denmates that will not be Lapispaw, Antpaw, and Naturepaw,* Dragonpaw thought miserably.

Sizzlestorm's two kits sat next to Dragonpaw's littermates.

"This sunhigh, we gather to name two apprentices. Come forward, you two." Branchstar meowed. The two kits trotted forward proudly, fur freshly groomed, and sat down under the Jaggedrock. Sizzlestorm watched proudly. Heartclaw must be looking from StarClan right now. Three of her last kits are becoming warriors.

"Until she has earned her warrior name, this apprentice will be called Grasspaw. Brickheart, you are ready for another apprentice. You are fast and a good fighter. Pass these skills down to

Grasspaw."

Sizzlestorm's other kit, a tom named Robinpaw, his mentor was Horsetail. They trotted away and sat together under the warm greenleaf sun.

"I, Branchstar, leader of DawnClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these three apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as warriors in their turn." She looked down at Dragonpaw's kin, her eyes narrowing. "Antpaw, Lapispaw, Naturepaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend this clan, even at the cost of your lives?"

"I do," they all meowed at once.

"Then by the powers of StarClan I give you your warrior names: Antpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Antfoot. StarClan honors your bravery and strength, and welcomes you as a full warrior of DawnClan."

"Lapispaw, from this moment on, you will be known as Lapisfur. StarClan honors your bravery and courage and welcomes you as a full warrior of DawnClan."

"Naturepaw, from this moment on, you will be known as Naturesoul. StarClan honors your bravery and courage and welcomes you as a full warrior of DawnClan."

Branchstar rested her muzzle on each of the new warriors' heads. As soon as Branchstar finished, Antfoot, Lapisfur, and Naturesoul bounded over to Dragonpaw. "We're so sorry, Dragonpaw," Antfoot meowed. "Maybe soon!" Lapisfur mewed. "At least you'll have Grasspaw and Robinpaw," Naturesoul reassured. Dragonpaw shrugged.

Suddenly, a group of about fifteen ForestClan warriors came charging into camp, Mousestar leading them. They stopped when Mousestar stopped, and Branchstar faced the ForestClan warriors.

"ForestClan, attack!" Mousestar yowled.

The ForestClan warriors charged in to battle. Dragonpaw spotted Grapevine and Brightpelt fighting, and Snakeclaw and Dartspeed tag teaming Sparklefur. She was small---no match for the fully grown warriors. Dragonpaw charged at them, knocking Snakeclaw down. She nipped at his ear. He hissed and raked his claws down Dragonpaw's back. Her yellow-orange fur went flying. Dragonpaw leapt on onto his back and clawing. Snakeclaw ran into the mass of screeching cats. Dragonpaw hurled herself at the warrior last battle, Mountaintail.

Dragonpaw leapt at Mountaintail, clawing down her back. Mountaintail bucked her off and started clawing at her. Almost fully grown, Dragonpaw leapt over her and bit at her tail. Mountaintail swung around and nipped at Dragonpaw's ear. In pain, Dragonpaw raked at her side, until she heard a call from Brightpelt, ForestClan's deputy: "ForestClan, retreat!"

Soon, the ForestClan cats bounded away. Grapevine rushed towards the injured DawnClan cats.

"So far, we've found out Streamfur and Brickheart are dead, and Sparklefur, Wingheart, and Blackpelt are injured. Amberfang will tend to you all."

StarClan, why? Dragonpaw thought as Streamfur and Brickheart's bodies were dragged out of the medicine den. Lapisfur bolted over to Streamfur's body and licked it gently. First Heartclaw and Draketail, now Streamfur and Brickheart?

Branchstar spent the most time with the two dead warriors, because they were her kin. She then yowled for a meeting.

"Let us give thanks to StarClan for Streamfur's and Brickheart's lives. Brickheart was also a mentor to young Grasspaw, and the training of our apprentices must not be delayed, so Winterstorm will continue Grasspaw's training."

Mousestar had taken another of Branchstar's lives. Branchstar leapt down from the Jaggedrock, but she was suddenly struck down. She collapsed, a single neck would that would be fatal. Mousestar was standing behind her. She bounded away.

Branchstar was dead.

DawnClan Edited

DawnClan

Leader: Grapevine- tabby tom with pale black pelt and purple eyes

Deputy: Sootclaw- dark gray she-cat with blood-red eyes

Medicine Cat: Amberfang- amber she-cat with water-blue eyes

Warriors:

Dirtpelt- pale brown tom with green eyes

Clawtail- orange tom with darker patches that look like clawmarks on the fur, sand-yellow eyes

Wingheart- white tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Naturesoul- bright yellow tortoiseshell tom with green eyes

Winterstorm- beautiful white she-cat with light amber eyes

Lapisfur- blue-black tabby tom with amber eyes

Blackpelt- huge tabby tom with black fur and green eyes

Sparklefur- small light gray she-cat with baby blue eyes

Antfoot- light black she-cat with amber eyes

Horsetail- light brown tortoiseshell tom with deep black eyes

Whiteclaw- small pale gray tortoiseshell she-cat with amber eyes

Queens:

Dapplecoat- pale yellow tabby with blue-green eyes

Sizzlestorm- deep orange tortoiseshell with amber eyes; oldest

queen in the Nursery

Petalflower- silver tabby with deep yellow eyes

Apprentices:

Dragonpaw- yellow-orange she-cat with darker stripes and blue eyes; mentor Wingheart

Robinpaw- red-gray tabby tom with amber eyes; mentor Horsetail

Grasspaw- black tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes; mentor Winterstorm

Elders:

Brokenear- pale white tabby tom with green eyes; one whole ear missing; oldest tom in DawnClan

Applestorm- ginger tortoiseshell tom with blue eyes

Losteye- pale orange tabby she-cat with deep black eyes; half blind; oldest cat in DawnClan

Willowheart- tom with spotted gray fur and green eyes; retired medicine cat

Chapter 7

Dragonpaw stood in shock as the ForestClan cats yowled in victory, racing out of the camp. Branchstar's dead body lay close to the Jaggedrock, limp and unmoving.

Grapevine bent down and licked it gently. He then bounded up onto the Jaggedrock, not needing to call a clan meeting because all the shocked DawnClan cats were willing to take orders from anyone.

"Branchstar is now dead," he meowed, "so I will be new leader of DawnClan. My first action as leader will be to appoint the new deputy."

The warriors and apprentices looked at Grapevine pleadingly: all of them wanted to be deputy. Grapevine's friend and apprentice, Sootclaw and Antfoot, sat together. They looked like kin.

"Sootclaw," Grapevine mewed, "will be the new deputy of DawnClan."

Antfoot mewed a congratulations to Sootclaw, who trotted up, the stares of the cats soaking into her fur. She leapt up beside Grapevine swiftly, and stared down at the warriors. She looked proud of her responsibilities now.

"I will serve DawnClan well." she rasped confidently.

Grapevine, as new leader of DawnClan, leapt off the Jaggedrock and trotted over to Amberfang, who was waiting for him patiently. The two cats trotted away.

Dragonpaw trotted over towards Petalflower. Her kits, Purplekit, Mudkit, and Moonkit, were playfully tumbling, oblivious to the strong grief the clan was facing.

"Hello, Dragonpaw." Petalflower meowed sweetly.

Mudkit came tumbling over, landing on Dragonpaw's paw. She sneezed, then stood up and dashed towards her brothers. They were rolling around.

This reminded Dragonpaw of when she would play with her littermates when they were kits. She was so lost in thought she didn't see Antfoot and Naturesoul padding over until they were a mouse length away.

"Hello, Antfoot, Naturesoul," Dragonpaw mewed.

"It's okay, you don't have to treat us with the respect you'd treat a clan leader or deputy," Antfoot meowed. "We're going to sit vigil with Lapisfur soon, and we just wanted to say a quick goodbye before we couldn't talk. See you in the morning!"

Antfoot and Naturesoul trotted away and sat, staring at the sky, next to Lapisfur. Dragonpaw trotted sleepily over to the apprentices' den, where Grasspaw and Robinpaw were playing.

"Hello!" Grasspaw mewed, prying her attention away from Robinpaw, who she held down with her forepaws. Have had moving them from him, he leapt up and shoved Grasspaw down.

"Your attention weakened you, Grasspaw," Dragonpaw replied. "Remember, keeping your attention on the attacker is the most important thing."

Dragonpaw, oblivious to the noise Robinpaw was making, quickly fell asleep.

***

Heartkit was play-fighting with her brother and sister, Blackkit and Sootkit. Branchpelt trotted past them quickly, Willowheart at her side. Pearlstar had died recently, and Branchpelt was deputy, so she'd become clan leader.

Heartkit bounded over to Branchpelt, Blackkit and Sootkit following. Their mother, Losteye, who had traveled to the elders' den early because she had lost an eye in a battle, was watching, sharing tongues with Flowerbloom.

"Branchpelt, what's it like being clan leader?" Heartkit asked the deputy. "Well," Branchpelt replied, "It's sometimes hardwork, but it can be fun."

Branchpelt's kits whom were apprentices, Streampaw and Brickpaw, padded up to the conversation.

"Yes. I do want to become clan leader someday," Streampaw mewed. "Not if I do first! Brickpaw, attack!"

Brickpaw leapt at Streampaw. The two tumbled together playfully. Drakepaw and Winterpaw came dashing at them, and leapt into the scuffle.

"See you soon, little one," Branchpelt mewed to Heartkit as her and Willowheart padded out of camp.

Dragonpaw's dream setting soon changed to the dark forest. Heartclaw, Draketail, Streamfur, and Brickheart were standing next to her. "Why'd you choose to share this memory with me?" Dragonpaw asked.

"We wanted you to see Branchstar when she was young and confident, like you, Dragonpaw. It's okay if you didn't become a warrior with Naturesoul, Antfoot, and Lapisfur. I'm still proud of you." Heartclaw responded.

"You will meet with Birdfeather, Blazepelt, and Dartspeed when you wake up. Travel to the Great Rock at sunhigh," Streamfur whispered. Soon, the cats disappeared, leaving Dragonpaw alone.

***

"Wake up! Wake up! They're back!" Grasspaw mewed excitedly.

Dragonpaw stood up. She shook the drowziness off her fur, then she padded outside to see Naturesoul, Antfoot, and Lapisfur standing proudly next to Grapevine and Amberfang. Sootclaw and Antfoot both had wide smirks on their face.

"Grapestar! Grapestar!" Sootclaw yowled, and soon, every cat was chanting the new leader's name. Grapestar seemed to soak in the attention, as if he was expecting it.

Grapestar bounded through the cats and leapt gracefully onto the Jaggedrock.

"DawnClan, you will now know me as Grapestar!" he yowled.

"Grapestar! Grapestar!" the cats continued. "I want Wingheart to lead a patrol to check ForestClan borders, and you will take Dirtpelt and Dragonpaw with you. I want Sootclaw to lead a patrol to check FireClan borders and take Antfoot and Clawtail with you. Lapisfur, organize a hunting patrol and take whomever you want with you."

"And," Grapestar continued, "Brickheart was going to mentor Grasspaw, but he went to hunt with StarClan. I want Winterstorm to continue Grasspaw's training."

After Winterstorm and Grasspaw and bumped noses rather awkwardly, Dragonpaw padded over to Wingheart and Dirtpelt. The patrol soon left.

***

It was a border patrol, but after they had remarked the scents, Dragonpaw had wanted to hunt. She sniffed the air and caught scent of a squirrel.

The squirrel was sitting in a tree, nibbling on an acorn. Dragonpaw quietly climbed the tree, her claws barely making any sound as they scraped at the oak bark.

She carefully balanced herself and crept towards the squirrel, then pounced on it, killing it quickly. She glanced at ForestClan for only a brief moment when she noticed the deputy Brightpelt, Beepaw, and Thrushstorm were hiding in the bushes, preparing to leap at Wingheart. Her back was turned, so she didn't notice the cats.

Dragonpaw leapt off the branch swiftly and turned to face the ForestClan cats, only their huge eyes appearing from the bush they were hiding in. The surprised yowl from Beepaw startled Wingheart and Dirtpelt, who turned to face the ForestClan cats. They soon leapt.

Dragonpaw unsheathed her claws and leapt at Beepaw, who

screeched and fell. He soon got up and started clawing at Dragonpaw's side. Ignoring the long scratches, she leapt over Beepaw's head and turned around, nipping at his tail. He screeched and turned around, yellow eyes wide with hatred. He clawed at Dragonpaw's face, leaving a gash above her right eye. She clawed at Beepaw's face, leaving a gash in one of his eyes. He yowled in pain and bolted away.

Dragonpaw leapt at Thrushstorm, who was battling with Dirtpelt. She sunk her fangs into one of her ears. Thrushstorm yowled and kicked at Dragonpaw, losing her footing in the process. She toppled over, leaving it open for Dragonpaw to rake at her side. Yowling, she signaled to Brightpelt, and they bolted away.

Wingheart was severly injured, so Dragonpaw and Dirtpelt supported her with their shoulders as they walked back to camp.

When they arrived, Grasspaw and Winterstorm were the first to notice them, so Winterstorm meowed something into Grasspaw's ear. Nodding, she bolted away, soon returning with Amberfang. She helped them into her den.

Dragonpaw layed down and sighed in relief as Amberfang pressed cobwebs onto a wound in her side. As she did this, Grapestar padded in.

"What happened? Tell me." Grapestar ordered.

"Well," Dirtpelt began, "we had just finished remarking the scents, so Dragonpaw went to hunt. She was in a tree, so she spotted the ForestClan cats Thrushstorm, her apprentice Beepaw, and Mousestar's deputy, Brightpelt. Dragonpaw saved Wingheart's life."

Grapestar nodded and replied. "Those mouse-brained cats!" he shrieked, starting Amberfang. "I will talk to Mousestar about this at the next Gathering. Thank you for telling me this, Dirtpelt. Heal well." Grapestar padded out of the medicine den.

Dragonpaw slowly drifted off to sleep because she was stuck in the medicine den while her wounds repaired.

She was in the forest, surrounded by StarClan cats. Some she recognized, some she didn't. "Hello, Dragonpaw." mewed one. Dragonpaw turned to the voice to see it was a cat she didn't recognize. "I am Dawnstar," the cat replied. "I was DawnClan's first leader. Foreststar, Cavestar, Firestar!" she yowled.

Three cats padded up to her.

"Together, all four of us created our own clans. Right now, we can see Birdfeather, Blazepelt, and Dartspeed waiting for you at the Great Rock. You must get there. We do not want to see our creations be destroyed."

Soon, the StarClan cats disappered, and Dragonpaw woke up suddenly. Wounds healed, she rushed out of camp.

***

Dragonpaw arrived, panting, at the Great Rock. Dartspeed, Birdfeather, and Blazepelt stared at her in shock.

"Why were you so late?" Dartspeed asked.

Dragonpaw clamoured onto the Great Rock and stared at the others. "I was patrolling our ForestClan border when Brightpelt, Thrushstorm, and Beepaw attacked us. I was in the medicine den, healing."

The others nodded in response. Dragonpaw felt like a stare was burning into her back, and she frequently checked behind her, but nothing was there.

"I think I know what we must do, guys," Blazepelt mewed after a long span of silence. "I think we must go to the Nightstone." Dragonpaw looked at Blazepelt, then at Birdfeather and Dartspeed, then back at Blazepelt. They all seemed to be in agreement. Dragonpaw, having to agree, slowly nodded.

"Let's meet here at moonrise. Get the things you need. We'll leave then." Blazepelt mewed.

Chapter 8

Dragonpaw trotted through the forest to the Great Rock. She had eaten her fill and received traveling herbs from Amberfang without a little bit of questioning from her and Grapestar. She had convinced them she'd been going to hunt.

Dragonpaw trotted up and leapt onto the Great Rock. Birdfeather and Blazepelt were sitting there, waiting for the DawnClan and ForestClan cats. Birdfeather was grooming her glossy orange pelt, and Blazepelt was staring straight into ForestClan territory.

Soon, Dartspeed lept up onto the Great Rock gracefully and meowed a greeting, then stared at the others. "Are we ready to go to the Nightstone?" Dartspeed asked. "Yes, let's go," Blazepelt responded.

They leapt off the Great Rock and headed north, through CaveClan territory. "Let's go. I'll show you through," Birdfeather reassured the worrying cats about crossing through CaveClan territory. "Let's go!" she mewed.

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Birdfeather trotted ahead, her head held high proudly. Blazepelt and Dragonpaw walked behind her, Dartspeed bringing up the rear. Dartspeed kept eye for a CaveClan patrol. "Halt!" he yowled suddenly. "There is a CaveClan patrol." They darted into a bush to escape. A patrol trotted by.

The patrol consisted of Stonepool, Deadleaf, Spiderclaw, and Whirlpaw. The four suddenly stopped in front of the bush and paused to sniff. "I smell a mixed scent of all the clans, Deadleaf," Whirlpaw whispered, voice sounding anxious. Birdfeather shook her head to herself and leapt out of the bush.

"Hello, Spiderclaw, Stonepool, Deadleaf, Whirlpaw," Birdfeather whispered, stepping in front of the bush to hide the other cats. "I

was hunting." Spiderclaw nodded, then trotted away, the others following.

"Let's go," she whispered, shaking the bush violently. They climbed out of the bush quickly and scurried away.

"Dartspeed, how is Mousestar? She killed Branchstar. Grapevine is leader. He is now Grapestar." Dragonpaw asked. "We haven't heard much from her." Dartspeed responded.

"I see the Caverocks!" Blazepelt yowled.

Dragonpaw shifted her eyes towards the direction Blazepelt was staring at and saw a tall, steep mountain protruding out of the ground, with a small river surrounding it. At the top of the mountain, which Dragonpaw craned her head to see, was a gaping hole that lead to the Nightstone.

Birdfeather charged towards the river and leapt from stone to stone until she landed on the other side. Blazepelt leapt a little more carefully, but at the same speed and leapt from rock to rock until he got there. Dartspeed bounded across and landed next to Blazepelt.

Dragonpaw carefully leapt across. She froze in her spot when she saw a wave hurling itself towards her, knocking her off her feet and sending her crashing in the waves.

***

Dragonpaw thrashed, trying to heave herself above the water for air. The water shoved her under the surface, blocking her. Her lungs were screaming for air until she felt teeth sink into her scruff and heave her up. She was pulled out of the water by a red-brown she-cat. Dragonpaw lay on the ground, belly up, breathing heavily.

The red-brown she-cat sat above Dragonpaw, watching her. "Are you okay?" she whispered. Dragonpaw nodded, staring up at the she-cat. Birdfeather, Blazepelt, and Dartspeed were padding up towards the two, looking half worried, half surprised.

Dragonpaw heaved herself to her paws, staring at the she-cat. Her green eyes were studying the clan cats. "Who are you?" she finally

meowed.

"I'm Dragonpaw of DawnClan, and these are Blazepelt of FireClan, Dartspeed of ForestClan, and Birdfeather of CaveClan." Dragonpaw responded.

"What are clans?" the she-cat asked.

"We'll tell you. What is your name?" Blazepelt asked. "My name is Brown," the she-cat responded, "follow me." Brown turned around and stalked into a bush. The cats followed her.

Three full grown cats were sitting calmly. Compared to Brown, they looked young, about thirteen moons. Five kits were on the ground, tumbling. Dragonpaw looked around the scenery and saw they were in a cave, the entrance blocked by the bush.

"As you know, I'm Brown." she paused. Two of the three older ones were black she-cats, one with amber eyes and one with blue. There was a white tabby tom with green eyes. The kits were a white she-cat, a black tabby tom, a tortoiseshell brown tom, a gray she-cat, and a reddish-orange she-cat, all with blue eyes and about six moons old.

"The amber-eyed she-cat is Sun, the blue-eyed is Night. The white tom is Snow, Night's mate. The white kit is Flake, the black is Black, the brown is Mud, the gray is Gray, and the red-orange is Fire." Brown trotted over to Sun, Night, and Snow, and sat calmly next to them. "What are the clans?" Brown asked once again.

"Well," Dragonpaw began, "the clans are four groups of cats that live in the forest. There are DawnClan, FireClan, ForestClan, and CaveClan. Each clan has a leader, deputy (which is the highest warrior and they will become leader once the current one dies), and medicine cat. Kits become apprentices at six moons, when they train to become a warrior, when they are ready, they do."

Brown nodded, then whispered to Sun. Sun nodded, then spoke with Night and Snow. They both nodded. Night spoke for the group. "Sun, Snow, and I and our kits would like to come with you to DawnClan." Dragonpaw was shocked. Why DawnClan and not the

other clans? "We were in the middle of a task for our clans, so Dragonpaw will come back for you afterwards." Blazepelt responded. Brown nodded, then trotted over to the pile of fresh kill that had accumulated and grabbed two voles. She lay them at the cats' feet. "Eat up before you leave," she mewed. Dragonpaw shared her vole with Birdfeather, then trotted out of the cave.

***

Dragonpaw leapt onto the next rock, holding on with her sharp claws. She clawed at the rock, and eventually brought herself over the rock. Birdfeather, Blazepelt, and Dartspeed were waiting. The cave of the Nightstone was waiting before them.

Dragonpaw trotted into the cave, using her whiskers to sense where she was going. She was right behind Dartspeed, and Birdfeather and Blazepelt were behind. Soon, they reached the bright stone. They all trotted up and pushed their noses onto the Nightstone, and sleep overcame them.

Dragonpaw opened her eyes to the dark forest, Dawnstar standing in front of her. "Hello, Dragonpaw," Dawnstar meowed. Dragonpaw stared into her amber eyes. "You are part of a prophecy with Dartspeed, Birdfeather, and Blazepelt, too. Firestar, Foreststar, and Cavestar are with them." Dragonpaw nodded quickly but respectfully. "StarClan is with you every step, Dragonpaw. You have our help when you need it most. Just know: *Beware the enemy who holds the stars.*" Dragonpaw soon woke up.

Dragonpaw slid down the rocks carefully and bounded towards the cave where the cats resided, straying from the path that Birdfeather had lay out for the others. She headed through the bush, where the rogues resided. Sun, Night, Snow, Flake, Black, Mud, Gray, and Fire.

"Are you ready to go?" she asked. "Yes," Sun responded. Dragonpaw nodded, then turned around and led the cats away. She crossed the river with them and rushed through the forest until she arrived in the DawnClan forest.

***

Dragonpaw trotted in with Sun, Night, Snow, Flake, Black, Mud, Gray, and Fire. Grapestar trotted up to the cats. "Who are these cats?" he spat. "They'd like to join DawnClan," Dragonpaw responded. "We could use more warriors. Come." Grapestar meowed, leading the cats to the Jaggedrock. "All cats old enough to catch their own prey gather under the Jaggedrock!" he yowled.

Everyone came up and waited expectantly.

"We gather here to welcome three warriors and five apprentices who were rogues into DawnClan."

Night and Snow huddled together, while Sun watched the kits. Grapestar had already known their names, weirdly, so he addressed them. Grasspaw and Robinpaw watched happily, waiting for new denmates. There would be eight apprentices in the den.

"Sun will be Sunfur. Night will be Nightsky. Snow will be Snowheart. You will have to live by the warrior code now."

Sunfur, Nightsky, and Snowheart looked around happily, staring at their new clanmates. They trotted over to the warriors happily, then turned around to look at the new apprentices. Flake, Black, Mud, Gray, and Fire. "Flake, Black, Mud, Gray, and Fire. You will now be apprentices. Flakepaw's mentor is Dirtpelt, Blackpaw's mentor is Clawtail, Mudpaw's mentor is Sparklefur, Graypaw's mentor is Blackpelt, and Firepaw's mentor is Sootclaw." The mentors touched noses with the new apprentices, then they left. Dragonpaw trotted up to them.

"Hey guys. Follow me. I'll show you where to sleep."

They nodded, then followed Dragonpaw to the apprentice den, Grasspaw and Robinpaw already there. As she had been on a night journey, Dragonpaw decided to take a quick nap.

Chapter 9

Thanks to @Porterfell123 for this amazing cover!

Dragonpaw was rushing through the forest, the wind ruffling her fur. She caught scent of a rabbit, and then followed the scent longingly. Her stomach growled as she searched for the rabbit.

Soon, the rabbit hopped out of the bushes, unbeknownst to the predator in front of it. Dragonpaw pounced on the rabbit, killing it instantly. She clamped it shut in her jaws and raced back to camp.

There was a group of ghostly figures huddled together in the middle of camp, looking cold and willing for any little scrap of prey. Dragonpaw, unable to resist, dropped the rabbit in front of the huddle, and thankfully, the cats gobbled it up until there wasn't anything left.

"Dragonpaw," one of them whispered into her ear, "Just remember: *Beware the enemy who holds the stars.*"

"What does that mean?" Dragonpaw asked, but the StarClan cats were already gone. Dragonpaw searched around camp, looking for any trace, but couldn't find any.

***

Dragonpaw was shaken awake by Firepaw. She was staring anxiously into Dragonpaw's sleepy eyes. "Can you and Wingheart come training with me, Flakepaw, Blackpaw, Mudpaw, and Graypaw?" Dragonpaw nodded sleepily, then stumbled after Firepaw.

What does this prophecy mean? Beware the enemy who holds the stars? Dragonpaw thought curiously as she followed Firepaw into the middle of camp, where Graypaw, Blackpaw, and Mudpaw were waiting, along with their mentors Blackpelt, Clawtail, and

Sparklefur.

Dragonpaw, curious where Flakepaw was, searched around the entire camp until she arrived at the medicine den to greet Amberfang before she left.

Flakepaw was wondering throughout the medicine den, looking curiously at all the herbs. Amberfang was looking happily at the apprentice. She stared happily back. Flakepaw trotted back out to meet Dirtpelt. The six apprentices were divided into two groups. Flakepaw was training with Mudpaw and Blackpaw, and Firepaw trained with Dragonpaw and Graypaw.

As Dragonpaw and Wingheart traveled to the training hollow, a patrol that consisted of Naturesoul, Lapisfur, Antfoot, and Nightsky was returning to camp from FireClan borders, and another patrol with Snowheart, Sunfur, Winterstorm, and Grasspaw from ForestClan borders.

Blackpelt and Graypaw were waiting patiently. Blackpelt was explaining the rules of the training hollow. "We train to fight the other clans. The other clans are FireClan, ForestClan, and CaveClan. When you are an apprentice, you train to fight." Graypaw wasn't paying attention. She was playing with a small branch, tumbling and pouncing on it. Blackpelt snatched the branch away from Graypaw.

"You are not to play with that. This is warrior training." Blackpelt meowed.

Graypaw, disappointed, stared at Dragonpaw longingly. She didn't look like she enjoyed clan life so far. "Let us begin. We will begin with the partner strike after Firepaw and Sootclaw arrive." Blackpelt started. Just as he finished, Sootclaw trotted in, the she-cat apprentice Firepaw following close behind. Firepaw looked amazed at the tall trees and branches.

"Blackpelt, Wingheart, let's go," the deputy meowed, trotting towards the other mentors. Wingheart and Sootclaw stood around Blackpelt, surrounding him. Sootclaw twitched her ear, then the two leapt at Blackpelt at the same time, Sootclaw on his face and

Wingheart on his tail. "That's how you do it. Now you try it. Stand where your mentors stood." Sootclaw explained.

Dragonpaw trotted behind Graypaw. Dragonpaw did have the size advantage, so it would be unfair. Firepaw stood right in front of Graypaw. She didn't want to leap on her sister. Firepaw didn't want to do that. "Now," Dragonpaw whispered, then leapt onto Graypaw's back. She held on tightly to the young apprentices' long pelt, while Firepaw gripped onto Graypaw's head. "Good, apprentices," Sootclaw mewed.

Dragonpaw happily nodded, then trotted outside. She didn't want to hunt, so she'd do apprentice duties. She rushed towards the moss cave and gathered the moss. *I remember when Snakeclaw, Beepaw, and Fluffpaw were here,* Dragonpaw remembered as she carried the moss out of the cave, her mouth clamping down on the clump she'd gathered.

***

Dragonpaw entered the elders' den quietly. Losteye was sleeping, and Brokenear, Applestorm, and Willowheart were sharing tongues. "Hello," Dragonpaw mewed quietly. Losteye stirred, but didn't wake up.

"Hello, Dragonpaw," Applestorm greeted quietly. "How is your day?" the ginger tom shifted a little, letting Dragonpaw pluck the moss from his bedding and replace it. She did the same with Brokenear and Willowheart. "Stay, Dragonpaw." Applestorm ordered after she had finished. Dragonpaw obeyed, sitting calmly and laying her tail on her forepaws.

"Let me tell the story of my sister, Mousepelt. She was a proud cat and loyal to her clan. But soon, her hunger for power led her to murder. She killed Electrobolt, the previous deputy, and expected to be made deputy, but wasn't. Branchpelt was. Pearlstar lost his last life, so Branchpelt became leader. Mousepelt was furious.

"She was even more mad when Branchstar appointed Earthfur the deputy. Earthfur was the deputy before Draketail. She was so mad, she left DawnClan and joined ForestClan. She became who we know

as Mousestar." Applestorm finished.

Dragonpaw stared horrified at Applestorm. Mousestar was of DawnClan and was Applestorm's kin? "I am ashamed I am kin with her," Applestorm admitted, answering the question seeping through Dragonpaw's thoughts.

"Well, you should be hunting. Hunt none, eat none. That's the first rule of being an apprentice," Losteye muttered, startling Dragonpaw. She trotted outside and bounded into the forest.

***

Dragonpaw opened her jaws to sniff the air around her, looking for any scent of prey. She quickly caught scent of a mouse.

Dragonpaw followed the scent until she saw the mouse, whom was quite plump, scurry into a small burrow under the tree. She crept towards the burrow, and the closer she crept, the stronger the scent of mouse became. It wafted up her nose, and it tempted Dragonpaw even more. She blocked out the thoughts, and reached her paw into the burrow.

She swiped her paw back and forth, looking for any mice that she could bring back. Using her paw, she widened the entrance to the burrow enough for her to just squeeze her head in. Dragonpaw looked around the burrow and saw about four mice in there, huddling together on the back wall against the burrow.

Dragonpaw shoved her paw through and quickly killed the four mice. She grabbed them with her teeth and kicked some dirt over them to hide them until she eventually came back to collect them. Dragonpaw trotted away, looking for more prey.

Dragonpaw traveled towards the FireClan border to hunt when a flame orange cat with green eyes bounded over from inside FireClan territory and pounced on Dragonpaw. She unsheathed her claws and prepared to claw at the tom's belly until he meowed: "It's me, Blazepelt!" Dragonpaw stared at Blazepelt, wondering what was so important that he had to cross borders.

"I've received a message from StarClan!" he yowled.

***

Blazepelt trotted towards the Great Rock, Birdfeather, Dartspeed, and Dragonpaw following. Dragonpaw stared at Blazepelt worriedly. *What message has he received?* Dragonpaw thought, staring at the proud orange FireClan warrior. As they arrived at the Great Rock, they split up and stood where their leaders stand at the Gathering, which was tonight.

"Anyways, I've received a message from StarClan," Blazepelt continued. "I had a dream where there were a bunch of StarClan cats were surrounding me. They told me to watch out for the danger of the ones who're not in the clans. Also known as rogues, loners, and kittypets." A mew was heard in the direction of DawnClan territory, and two cats with green collars appeared from the forest.

"Oh, hello," the black tabby she-cat mewed. "We weren't expecting other cats in the forest. I'm Whiskers, and this is Patches." Whiskers gestured towards a brown and white patched tom. "Our housefolk let us out, and we wanted to explore the forest. Would you like to hunt with us? I enjoy catching a mouse."

Blazepelt and Birdfeather hissed and leapt down from the Great Rock and stalked towards the kittypets. Dartspeed bounded over to them, and Dragonpaw was the last to creep towards them, hissing and spitting. "Hello, kittypet," Birdfeather spat, unsheathing her claws. "What does 'kittypet' mean? I'm expecting Patches' and I's kits, so we just wanted to hunt one last time before I'm stuck inside the house." Whiskers mewed sweetly.

Blazepelt arched his back, hissing. "You will not hunt in this forest. You hunt for sport, while all of us," he gestured towards Birdfeather, Dartspeed, and Dragonpaw. *Kittypets. They don't know anything about the warrior code,* Dragonpaw thought menacingly. "we hunt for survival. You must get out of here. Now." Dartspeed spat. Patches and Whiskers were shocked. "Okay. We'll never come here again. Come, Whiskers. These cats are rude." Patches hissed.

Whiskers and Patches turned around and flicked their tails rudely before they left. The clan cats hopped back onto the rock and discussed more. "Anyways, after that dream, a band of rogues was found in our territory."

A startling hiss sent Dragonpaw three feet into the air. A large group of cats, who's pelts were ruffled and tangled, and many scars, climbed out of the bushes in ForestClan. It looked about the size of a whole clan. A large black-and-white spotted tabby she-cat lead the group of rogues towards the Great Rock.

"You speak of us?" she asked, unsheathing her claws. "I am Spottedstar, and this is my clan. There were originally five clans. FireClan, ForestClan, CaveClan, DawnClan, and CloudClan. We lived in harmony until the leader of ForestClan at the time, Deadstar, learned from StarClan that CloudClan was never meant to be a clan. He convinced the other leaders that we were never meant to be, and they exiled us. I still had nine lives, so we left, but now we're a band of rogues.

"Now that you know about this, you can't tell anyone. Fastspeed! Bloodred! Yellowstorm! Brownhead! Capture these cats. They're our prisoners now." Spottedstar spat.

Chapter 10

Brownhead's tail brushed over Dragonpaw's shoulders as they moved forward, pad by pad. Brownhead was a huge brown tom, so Dragonpaw had no chance of escaping. Yellowstorm gripped Birdfeather's tail with her jaws, so she'd move forward. Blood seeped out of Yellowstorm's mouth, her jaws clamped shut on Birdfeather's tail.

Blazepelt was the oldest out of all of them, so he was about the same size as the cat who's tail was over his shoulders, like Dragonpaw, whom was named Bloodred. Dartspeed hissed as his captor, Fastspeed, brushed his tail over Dartspeed's ears. Spottedstar in the front, they led the cats into a large cave.

A large pile of prey had been placed at the entrance. Two kits were tumbling, their mother watching them from afar. Another kit, whom was smaller than the others, lay close to its mother, suckling milk. The kits stopped and looked at Dragonpaw before continuing playing.

Spottedstar led them to a small tunnel with a small cave at the end. "This will be your den. Go inside. There will be two cats guarding this at all times, and those cats are in charge of bringing the prisoners food and water." Spottedstar explained. The captors shoved Dragonpaw, Dartspeed, Blazepelt, and Birdfeather into the cave, and a large gray she-cat and Yellowstorm stood in front of the tunnel, blocking any way out.

Dragonpaw trotted through the tunnel until she reached the cavern on the other side. It was small, but provided enough room for the clan cats. Pointed stones jutted from the roof, not even touching the tips of Dragonpaw's ears. Four ragged piles of moss lay around the cave, in terrible shape but were enough to satisfy. Dragonpaw lay down on a pile of moss. The others did the same.

"How are we going to escape?" Birdfeather asked quietly, enough for them to hear but not Yellowstorm and the gray she-cat. "I mean, StarClan sent all of a us a message. *Beware the enemy who holds the stars.* This must mean something, right? If it does, we need to get out of here and find out what."

Blazepelt nodded, then rapped his tail around Birdfeather affectionately. She nodded and layed her head on Blazepelt's shoulder. The two looked like mates.

Dartspeed shook his head to himself and murmured something under his breath. Dragonpaw closed her eyes and placed her head on her forepaws, hoping StarClan would send her a message through dreams.

***

Dragonpaw opened her eyes to a field of grass. A light breeze was blowing. For miles, all that Dragonpaw could see was grass field, every direction. Six StarClan cats she recognized as Dawnstar, Streamfur, Brickheart, Draketail, Branchstar, and Heartclaw stood in front of Dragonpaw, their heads held high proudly. Dragonpaw heaved herself to her paws and padded towards the StarClan cats.

"Hello," Dragonpaw mewed, staring at the cats she once knew. Heartclaw padded up to her and placed her tail on Dragonpaw's shoulders. Dragonpaw leaned on Heartclaw's shoulders, and the two sat like that for a few moments. Heartclaw then stood up and padded back to the cats, standing besides Dawnstar.

"Dragonpaw," Dawnstar meowed, padding forward, "we know you're in a terrible situation. We didn't really mean for CloudClan to be a clan, but it came together because we had another littermate. It was I, Firestar, Foreststar, Cavestar, and Cloudheart. Cloudheart wanted to lead a clan like we did, so he requested to lead a clan of his own. StarClan agreed, and gave him nine lives. Now Cloudstar, he gathered up cats from all clans or rogues and called his clan CloudClan. We didn't want this, because we knew that there weren't supposed to be five clans, but he refused to listen.

"CloudClan grew more powerful and powerful until eventually

Cloudstar led the biggest clan. He was a cruel leader, ambitious and power-hungry. Soon, we had to strike him down. CloudClan shrunk under their new leader, Ravenstar, because she wasn't a good leader. That was when Deadstar found out and struck Ravenstar down. Spottedstar became leader, then she rounded up CloudClan and declared her clan to be rogues."

Dawnstar sighed, remembering the hard times with CloudClan and Cloudstar. Dragonpaw backed up, giving Dawnstar space, letting her think. She finally shifted her eyes towards Dragonpaw. "As for your situation, StarClan will try to help you the best we can." All went black.

***

Dragonpaw awoke with a plump vole lying at her feet. Dartspeed, Blazepelt, and Birdfeather were there, all having voles, too. A black tabby she-cat was standing there, holding a moist bundle of moss. "I am Ravenheart," she mewed, "and I will bring you your food." She layed the bundle of moss down, and Dragonpaw padded towards it to lick some water from it.

After Dragonpaw had swallowed the rest of her water, she took a large bite from her vole. It was still pretty warm, so she gulped up more until nothing was left except the vole's bones. Ravenheart grabbed the bundle of moss and trotting out, coming later for the prey bones. Ravenheart returned once more after that.

"Spottedstar says that you have two more days to live, then you will be killed." she meowed sadly.

Blazepelt hissed and leapt at Ravenheart, clawing at her. It took Birdfeather, Dartspeed, and Dragonpaw to heave Blazepelt off her. Ravenheart, covered in scratches, bounded away, frightened. Dragonpaw stared at Blazepelt, annoyed.

"Why did you do that, Blazepelt? We could've befriended her so we could get out!" Dartspeed hissed, staring at Blazepelt. Blazepelt heaved a breath, then collapsed, tired. Dragonpaw slumped over to the wall to look for ways to escape, and found a loose rock in the wall, she banged into it, and the rock bounced outwards, giving a

clear view of the other side of the cave. A cat about Blazepelt's size or smaller could fit in it.

"Birdfeather, Blazepelt, Dartspeed, I might've found a way out." Dragonpaw said. Birdfeather and Dartspeed bounded over, while Blazepelt dragged his paws like there were heavy stones attached to them. They all peered through the opening.

"Let's go!" Birdfeather yowled, then darted through the opening. Dartspeed and Blazepelt did the same afterwards, and Dragonpaw was about to leap through the hole, when a sharp pain seared through her veins as a cat clamped their jaws shut on Dragonpaw's tail. She thrashed, trying to free herself, but it was no hope. Dragonpaw watched as Birdfeather, Blazepelt, and Dartspeed bounded away happily as Dragonpaw was dragged back inside the cave.

***

Dragonpaw sat under a tall, sturdy rock, head hung low. Spottedstar stood over her, her stares piercing Dragonpaw's neck fur. "This cat, Dragonpaw," Spottedstar started, staring at Dragonpaw menacingly, "was our prisoner, but tried to escape. Her friends, Birdfeather, Blazepelt, and Dartspeed succeeded, but she did not. Now, for trying to escape, she will die." Those words stabbed at Dragonpaw's heart. *Death?* Spottedstar stared into the crowd of rogues or CloudClan cats she'd gathered.

"Brownhead, you may kill Dragonpaw." Spottedstar rasped.

Brownhead trotted forward, held held high, and stood towering over Dragonpaw. Clamping her eyes shut, Dragonpaw listened as Brownhead breathed long, heavy breaths. As Dragonpaw opened her eyes, Brownhead leapt onto Dragonpaw's back. Dragonpaw managed to buck Brownhead off her back and clawed at his face.

Dragonpaw leapt up and onto Brownhead's back as he slashed at air, blood gushing down his face. He turned around and clawed at Dragonpaw, sending long scratches down her side. Dragonpaw slid under Brownhead's belly and clawed at it, leaving long scratches. Brownhead yowled, then reached under his belly and pulled

Dragonpaw out. He pinned her down and was about to bite at her neck when a startling yowl from the entrance to the cave startled all the CloudClan cats.

Blazepelt, Birdfeather, and Dartspeed were standing in front of a group of CaveClan, ForestClan, and FireClan cats. They all had their claws unsheathed, ready to fight. The CloudClan cats charged, so the others did the same.

Blazepelt and Birdfeather charged over, helping Dragonpaw up. She stumbled towards the three medicine cats, Magictail of FireClan, Happyfur of ForestClan, and Fruitbat of CaveClan. She collapsed at their feet, the battle surrounding them. "Goldenpaw!" Magictail yowled. A golden apprentice appeared from the midst of the battle, a bundle of herbs in her mouth.

"And Heartpaw!" Fruitbat yowled. Another golden apprentice appeared at Goldenpaw's side. Both were older than Dragonpaw. Heartpaw had a swathe of cobwebs on her paw, and she layed them all over Dragonpaw's wounds. Dragonpaw went unconscious soon after.

***

As Dragonpaw woke up, a sudden yowl from Spottedstar startled her. "CloudClan, retreat!" The CloudClan cats paused their battle and dashed towards Spottedstar, who was sitting to her full height on the rock she addressed the band of rogues known as CloudClan. The cats bounded away, exhausted. Birdfeather helped Dragonpaw walk, leaning her on her shoulder. Dragonpaw had been terribly wounded.

Blazepelt and Dartspeed padded up to Dragonpaw, who was stumbling even with Birdfeather's help. "We're so sorry we left you, Dragonpaw," Dartspeed mewed regretfully, standing on the other side of Dragonpaw so she could walk with a balance. Blazepelt trotted next to Birdfeather as they brought her towards DawnClan camp.

As they arrived, aggressive meowing told Dragonpaw that other cats were not happy with Blazepelt, Dartspeed, and Birdfeather in their

camp. Grapestar padded up to the cats, Sootclaw right behind him. She twitched her tail annoyingly as Grapestar studied Dragonpaw. "I'm sorry for trespassing, Grapestar, but Dragonpaw, Blazepelt, Dartspeed, and I were captured by and band of rogues called CloudClan." Furious hissing implyed that the cats knew what CloudClan was. "There was a terrible battle, and Dragonpaw was wounded badly. It will take time for her to recover, but she will be up and at it in about a moon."

Amberfang padded out of the medicine den and stared at Dragonpaw. "I'll help her to the medicine den," Amberfang offered, leaning Dragonpaw on her shoulder as she led her to the medicine den.

Chapter 11

This was the last day Dragonpaw was stuck in the medicine den. Her wounds were perfectly healed, and tonight was the Gathering, so she might be able to go. She lay in there with Brokenear, who was complaining about joint aches, and Amberfang was there. Flakepaw had chosen to follow the path of a medicine cat, so she was there, too.

Amberfang trotted over to Dragonpaw and uncovered the fur hiding her wounds to check on them. She had a swathe of cobwebs on her paw in case Dragonpaw needed it.

"Your wounds are very nicely healed," Amberfang whispered. "You may go, Dragonpaw."

Dragonpaw heaved herself to her paws and bounded over to Wingheart, whom was sharing tongues with Winterstorm. "Hello, Wingheart. Can we train?" Dragonpaw asked, eager to stretch out her legs. Wingheart nodded. Winterstorm trotted over to the apprentices' den to get Grasspaw, and the four traveled to the training hollow.

***

When they arrived at the training hollow, Winterstorm and Wingheart just trotted to the back of the arena and sat, waiting for Dragonpaw and Grasspaw to enter. "Today," Winterstorm began, "we're just testing your fighting skills. Dragonpaw, Grasspaw, remember, claws are always sheathed."

Dragonpaw leapt onto Grasspaw, holding onto her black tortoiseshell pelt. Grasspaw tried to buck Dragonpaw off, but she held on tightly. Dragonpaw rolled off Grasspaw's back and slid under her belly, raking at it. Grasspaw pushed Dragonpaw with her hind legs and bounded towards her, trying to push her. Dragonpaw used her forepaws to shove Grasspaw over. She bounded over and

pinned Grasspaw down, pretending to bite her neck.

"Great job, Dragonpaw and Grasspaw!" Wingheart meowed proudly.

They left the training hollow and trotted back to camp, catching a few pieces of prey while doing so. Dragonpaw dropped the two mice she caught in the fresh kill pile and trotted over to Grapestar's den, under the Jaggedrock. Wingheart was talking to Grapestar, so she leaned in to listen.

"Grapestar, I think Dragonpaw is ready to become a warrior," Wingheart mewed. "No. She needs to fulfill the prophecy first. Spottedstar is waiting," Grapestar responded, flicking his tail for Wingheart to leave, "she will not become a warrior yet." Dragonpaw watched Wingheart drag her tail on the ground as she left.

Grapestar bounded on top of the Jaggedrock and yowled: "All cats old enough to catch their own prey gather under the Jaggedrock!"

Dragonpaw bounded over to Lapisfur and Naturesoul, who were sitting together. She sat next to Naturesoul. Antfoot was sitting with Sootclaw and Firepaw, the three sneering at Whiteclaw, Wingheart, and Winterstorm. Grapestar stood proudly over the DawnClan cats. "I have chosen who I want to go to the Gathering. I want Sootclaw, Amberfang, Flakepaw, Whiteclaw, Horsetail, Robinpaw, Wingheart, Dragonpaw, and Antfoot to go to the Gathering. Eat up and rest. We leave at moonrise."

Grapestar leapt off the Jaggedrock and padded over towards Sootclaw. Dragonpaw trotted over to the fresh kill pile and grabbed a mouse, heading over to Grasspaw and Robinpaw. Both were sharing a rabbit, plump and round. Dragonpaw dropped her mouse and started to gobble it up.

"I'm so excited that I'm going to the Gathering!" Robinpaw exclaimed, looking up at Dragonpaw happily. Dragonpaw nodded, licking up the remnants of her mouse. She trotted over to the apprentices' den and took a quick nap before the Gathering.

***

Dragonpaw trotted out of the camp next to Wingheart. They padded through the forest and towards Fourtrees. CaveClan was already there, Moonstar talking with Birdfeather. As soon as she saw Dragonpaw, she bounded over. "Hello, Dragonpaw!" she mewed happily. "Spiderclaw sadly died during a battle with ForestClan, so Moonstar named Orangetail deputy," Birdfeather said, looking as FireClan arrived. She bounded over to Blazepelt, Dragonpaw following her.

"Hello, Blazepelt," Birdfeather mewed, then told him Orangetail was deputy. Blazepelt nuzzled her sweetly, then he bounded over as ForestClan arrived. Blazepelt bounded back, Dartspeed at his side. "Let's discuss later. Want to sit together?" Dartspeed asked, signaling to the leaders, who were perched on the rock.

Dartspeed, Birdfeather, Blazepelt, and Dragonpaw sat side by side, away from the other clans. Twilightstar's yowl signaled the Gathering to start. Moonstar, Mousestar, Twilightstar, and Grapestar sat on the Great Rock. "ForestClan will start. We come with three new warriors. Beewing, Fluffpelt, and Knotfur." Beewing, Fluffpelt, and Knotfur stood proudly, heads held high proudly. "We also have two new apprentices, Leafpaw and Rabbitpaw." Beewing, Fluffpelt, Knotfur, Leafpaw, and Rabbitpaw stood proudly, heads held high.

"I also have a new warrior sitting vigil in camp. His warrior name is Shadowfoot." Twilightstar meowed after Mousestar. Grapestar trotted forwards, standing in the middle of the Great Rock. "DawnClan is doing good. We have welcomed some rogues into our camp, and they are Sunfur, Snowheart, Nightsky, Blackpaw, Mudpaw, Firepaw, Graypaw, and Flakepaw, who has chosen the path of the medicine cat." Grapestar meowed.

Moonstar padded forward as well, standing next to Grapestar. "Our previous deputy, Spiderclaw, has sadly traveled to hunt with StarClan. Our deputy is now Orangetail." Orangetail puffed his chest up with pride as the CaveClan cats, including Birdfeather, chanted his name: "Orangetail! Orangetail!" Moonstar backed up as Twilightstar padded forward. "I spotted a few DawnClan cats cross FireClan border, Grapestar," Twillightstar hissed.

Grapestar hissed at Twilightstar. "We did not!" Grapestar hissed. "This Gathering is over!" Grapestar leapt down from the Great Rock and signaled for Sootclaw to follow him, and the DawnClan cats padded away. Dragonpaw went to join them, but Blazepelt stopped her. The FireClan, ForestClan, and CaveClan cats padded away afterwards.

Blazepelt, Birdfeather, Dartspeed, and Dragonpaw padded forwards and leapt onto the Great Rock. The leaders' scents were very fresh.

"So, I was thinking of asking Brown for help. She lives near the CloudClan cats, so she might know something." Dartspeed suggested. Blazepelt, Birdfeather, and Dragonpaw all nodded, and the cats leapt off the Great Rock. They headed towards the CaveClan territories.

***

Dragonpaw trotted into Brown's cave, eyes peeled. Brown appeared out of a small cave with a vole in her jaws, and trotted over to the clan cats. "Hello," she mewed. "What brings you here?"

"Blazepelt, Birdfeather, Dartspeed, and I are apart of a prophecy. We need to find out the enemy who holds the stars." Dragonpaw responded. "We thought you might know about CloudClan, since they live so near to you." Brown's eyes widened, then she pricked her ears.

"No, no, CloudClan is definitely not apart of the prophecy," Brown whispered. "Be on your way."

Dragonpaw turned around and trotted through the bush, Dartspeed and Blazepelt following. Birdfeather climbed out afterwards. "Why was Brown so sensitive about CloudClan?" Dragonpaw asked, glancing back at the rogue's cave.

"I don't know, but let's return home," Blazepelt meowed. "Our clans might worry about us."

Blazepelt and Dragonpaw trotted towards the Great Rock. FireClan and DawnClan were on the far side of the Great Rock and the

Nightstone, therefore meaning ForestClan and CaveClan were the closest. Dragonpaw said goodbye to Blazepelt at the border, then bounded towards camp.

***

Four moons had passed and Dragonpaw still hadn't become a warrior. It seemed as if Grapestar were waiting for her to do something. Dragonpaw was awoken by Wingheart, who was shaking her vigorously. "Come, Dragonpaw," Wingheart mewed. "Grasspaw and Robinpaw are becoming warriors."

Why StarClan? Why does Grapestar not want me to become a warrior? Dragonpaw thought sadly as she trotted forwards. She sat in the cluster of cats, next to Sizzlestorm. Grasspaw and Robinpaw were her kits.

Grasspaw and Robinpaw trotted forward at Grapestar's signal and sat proudly, Horsetail and Winterstorm beaming.

"I, Grapestar, leader of DawnClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in their turn."

As the newest named warriors, Dirtpelt, Naturesoul, Lapisfur, and Antfoot stared at the apprentices. Why could they become warriors, but not Dragonpaw? She was many moons older than them.

"Grasspaw, Robinpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and to protect and defend this clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do," Grasspaw and Robinpaw replied.

"Then by the powers of StarClan I give you your warrior names: Grasspaw, from this moment on you will be known as Grassbreeze. StarClan honors your speed and courage, and we welcome you as a full warrior of DawnClan."

Grassbreeze trotted forwards and gave Grapestar's shoulder a respectful lick. Grapestar bent down lower and rested his muzzle on Grassbreeze's head, then she straitened up and walked to join the

other warriors, turning around to watch Robinpaw receive his warrior name.

"Robinpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Robinwing. StarClan honors your strength and speed, and we welcome you as a full warrior of DawnClan."

Robinwing gave Grapestar's shoulder a respectful lick. Grapestar bent down and rested his muzzle on Robinwing's bowed head. He trotted over to Grassbreeze, and the two new warriors bounded out of camp to hunt.

Dragonpaw followed. "Why?" Dragonpaw murmured under her breath. "Why am I stuck as an apprentice when Dirtpelt, Lapisfur, Antfoot, Naturesoul, Grassbreeze, and Robinwing all get to become warriors? I'm older than Grassbreeze and Robinwing!"

Dragonpaw trotted into the forest, scenting for prey. She caught scent of one and bounded away, but smelled a scent of DawnClan cats. She dove into a bush for cover and caught sight of a patrol that consisted of Sootclaw, Antfoot, and Firepaw.

"We must keep Grapestar's secret," Sootclaw meowed quietly. Dragonpaw had to stretch her ears to listen. "But what about Dragonpaw? Why can't she become a warrior? She's my littermate, I want to sleep in the same den with her again," Antfoot pleaded.

"Not until Dragonpaw does what Grapestar wants her to do," Firepaw mewed.

"Good remembering, Firepaw," Sootclaw whispered, stroking Firepaw's back with her tail. They stopped in front of the bush Dragonpaw was crouching in. She hoped they didn't pick up her distinctive scent.

"I can't wait to see Grapestar rise to power," Sootclaw sighed. "And we will rise with him. FireClan, ForestClan, CaveClan, CloudClan, and the rest of DawnClan will be cowering under him."

Firepaw and Antfoot nodded happily, picturing the same thing Sootclaw was. "Anyways," Antfoot continued, "that prophecy

includes Dartspeed, Blazepelt, and Birdfeather. He needs all of them." she whispered.

Sootclaw nodded, then the trio of Grapestar supporters padded away. Dragonpaw bounded away, towards FireClan territory.

***

Dragonpaw stood on the Great Rock with Blazepelt, Birdfeather, and Dartspeed. "Blazepelt, Birdfeather, Dartspeed, Grapestar knows about the prophecy." she whispered. "He plans to use it in some way, and he needs us to fulfill it so he can rise to power."

Dartspeed stared at Dragonpaw in disbelief.

"No," he whispered, "he can't know about it. You never told him!"

Dragonpaw sighed. "I don't know how he found out. But I do know he knows about CloudClan." Dartspeed murmured something under his breath and trotted over to Dragonpaw, turning to Birdfeather and Blazepelt.

"Mousestar and Brown also definitely know about CloudClan. Brown seemed alarmed when we asked her, and Mousestar has been mentioning some things like 'clan of the sky', which is filled with clouds, and 'band of rogues', which CloudClan is." Dartspeed realized.

Blazepelt and Birdfeather padded over to Dragonpaw and Dartspeed. "We must find out what is going on." Birdfeather declared. "We must talk with someone who might know about this." Dartspeed, Blazepelt, and Dragonpaw all nodded.

"We could ask someone from CloudClan, but who? All are vicious and cruel," Blazepelt realized, his shoulders sinking lower.

"I think I know," Dragonpaw whispered. "Who is the only CloudClan cat who was ever nice to us?" Blazepelt looked at Dragonpaw like she had four heads. Birdfeather was grooming her glossy orange pelt, but still in thought. Dartspeed was staring into the sky and studying every single cloud, looking if they might have the answer.

After many moments of thinking, Blazepelt, Birdfeather, and Dartspeed stared at Dragonpaw as if she knew the answer to every problem in the world.

"It's Ravenheart! She brought us our food and water when Spottedstar held us captive, remember?"

"Okay, then," Blazepelt meowed, trotting over to Dragonpaw. "We leave at moonrise."

Chapter 12

Dragonpaw padded towards the Great Rock, making sure her paws made no sound. She leapt onto the Great Rock, waiting for Blazepelt, Birdfeather, and Dartspeed to arrive. Soon, Birdfeather trotted towards the Great Rock, and leapt onto it gracefully. After Blazepelt and Dartspeed arrived, they set out.

Dragonpaw lead, with Blazepelt and Birdfeather behind her and Dartspeed bringing up the rear. Dragonpaw padded forward, nervously swinging her head side to side. They soon arrived at the CloudClan cave, the entrance looming over them.

Dartspeed entered first, sniffing cautiously before entering. Blazepelt entered next, Birdfeather and Dragonpaw afterwards. Dragonpaw's sleek body was shaking with fear that Spottedstar or another CloudClan cat would wake up.

Dragonpaw padded quietly over to Ravenheart. Blazepelt and Dartspeed were standing over her, and Birdfeather was sniffing her gently. Dragonpaw placed her paw on Ravenheart's glossy black pelt and shook her gently.

Ravenheart's eyes shot open, and she leapt up. Blazepelt motioned for her to be quiet, and then to follow him. They climbed out of the cave and outside.

"Ravenheart," Blazepelt asked, "do you know anything about Spottedstar?" Ravenheart stared, frightened, at Blazepelt, Birdfeather, Dartspeed, and Dragonpaw.

"Well," she began softly, "a black cat with purple eyes with a brown cat with amber eyes have been visiting Spottedstar. I don't know who they are, but they have been visiting for a while."

Dragonpaw's eyes widened worriedly. That was Grapestar and Mousestar! She stared at Ravenheart worriedly. "I know who those cats are," she whispered. "They are Grapestar, leader of DawnClan, and Mousestar, leader of ForestClan."

Ravenheart stared at Dragonpaw, frightened. She then bounded away. "We need to chase her!" Blazepelt yowled. "She might gather some warriors to attack us!" Blazepelt bounded towards the cave, and Birdfeather, Dartspeed, and Dragonpaw following after.

Ravenheart was standing in front of a group of CloudClan warriors, standing up and hissing furiously at them. Spottedstar climbed sleepily out of her den, her eyes immediately focused on Dragonpaw. "Attack!" she yowled.

The CloudClan cats leapt at them, badly outnumbering the clan cats. Dragonpaw charged at Brownhead, the cat who tried to kill her. She knocked him over and raked his belly, leaving long scratches.

Brownhead hissed and bowled Dragonpaw over with a paw, then scratched Dragonpaw's sides. She hissed and kicked Brownhead with her back paws and bit into his leg. He yowled and struck a blow right above Dragonpaw's eye, sending blood gushing down her face. She leapt up and pounced on Brownhead, who struggled free and dashed off.

***

Dragonpaw limped outside as fast as she could, Birdfeather, Blazepelt, and Dartspeed following. They were entering CaveClan territory when a patrol that consisted of Moonstar, Crackpelt, Frozenpaw, and Orangetail trotted past. They stared at the injured warriors as dawn cracked.

"What happened?" Moonstar asked.

"We'll tell you," Birdfeather responded, "if you nurse us back to health." Moonstar nodded, then flicked his tail as a signal for the cats to follow. They trotted forwards, following Moonstar. He lead the cats to a rock wall with a small crevice that lead to the

CaveClan camp. He lead the cats into the camp.

All the dens were hollows in the rocks, and the fresh kill pile was well stocked in the greenleaf weather. Deadleaf padded forwards, not noticing Blazepelt, Dartspeed, and Dragonpaw. "Moonstar," Deadleaf began, "I think Whirlpaw is ready to become a warrior, and Birdfeather told me that Veilpaw is ready too-" she cut off and stared at the cats.

"They will rest in the medicine den. As for Whirlpaw and Veilpaw, they can become warriors. Birdfeather, you may watch if you'd like."

Birdfeather nodded, then lead the cats to Fruitbat's den. Heartpaw and Fruitbat were there, sorting out herbs.

"Hi, Birdfeather! Who are these cats?" Heartpaw mewed. "You just need to heal them. I'll be back. Veilpaw is becoming a warrior."

Birdfeather trotted outside as Moonstar called a clan meeting. She could see Moonstar addressing the clan as Veilpaw and Whirlpaw became warriors, and she could hear it as well as Heartpaw lay cobwebs on her wounds.

Afterwards, the newly named warriors Whirlpool and Veilclaw trotted towards the crevice in the rock and squeezed out, dashing away to hunt.

***

Dragonpaw entered DawnClan camp, Moonstar and Birdfeather as an escort. Grapestar trotted up to Moonstar, hissing. "What are you doing here?" Grapestar hissed. Moonstar explained everything Dragonpaw and the prophecy cats had said.

"Grapestar," a voice mewed, "I think that proves Dragonpaw is ready to become a warrior."

Wingheart squeezed her way out of the warriors' den, staring at Grapestar. She looked serious; her attention was focused on Grapestar.

Grapestar sighed, then padded towards the Jaggedrock and leapt onto it. He yowled: "All cats old enough to catch their own prey gather under the Jaggedrock!"

Wingheart quickly groomed Dragonpaw's pelt, then she stepped forward. *I'm finally becoming a warrior!* Dragonpaw thought excitedly.

"I, Grapestar, leader of DawnClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on this apprentice. She has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend her to you as a warrior in her turn."

Dragonpaw stared at Grapestar excitedly. She'd become a warrior after many moons of waiting!

"Dragonpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect and defend this clan, even at the cost of your life?"

"I do," Dragonpaw muttered.

"Then by the powers of StarClan I give you your warrior name: Dragonpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Dragoncloud. StarClan honors your strength and bravery, and we welcome you as a full warrior of DawnClan."

Grapestar rested his muzzle on the newly named warrior's head, and she gave his shoulder a respectful lick. Dragoncloud trotted over to Lapisfur, Antfoot, and Naturesoul.

"Congratulations, Dragoncloud!" they all mewed at once. Dragoncloud nodded happily.

***

Two moons had passed since Dragoncloud had become a warrior. She woke up to the gray morning light shining through the roof of the warriors' den. Firepelt, Graytail, and Mudpool, three new warriors, were already awake and sharing tounges. Antfoot shifted, and opened her eyes, yawning. Purplekit, Moonkit, and Mudkit were becoming apprentices.

Grapestar yowled, and everybody gathered together. Dragoncloud's whiskers twitched nervously.

"This sunrise, we gather together to name three new apprentices. Come forward, you three."

Purplekit, Mudkit, and Moonkit trotted forwards, Petalflower watching from afar.

"From this day forward, until he has earned his warrior name, this apprentice will be called Purplepaw. Dragoncloud," Grapestar continued, setting his eyes on Dragoncloud, "you are ready for your first apprentice. You are strong and agile. Pass these skills down to Purplepaw."

Dragoncloud padded forwards and touched noses with her new apprentice. Purplepaw beamed, staring at Dragoncloud, until he turned around. Moonpaw's mentor was Sootclaw, and Mudpaw's was Horsetail. The ceremony soon ended.

Dragoncloud trotted over to Purplepaw, who was looking around happily. "Do you want to explore the forest?" she asked him. Purplepaw nodded, then they trotted into the forest.

Small A/N: Sorry for the short chapter! At least Dragoncloud received an apprentice! Just asking, what other names would you've wanted for Dragoncloud? Let me know! Anyways, goodbye, and peace, fam!

DawnClan Edited

DawnClan

Leader: Grapestar- tabby tom with pale black pelt and purple eyes

Deputy: Sootclaw- dark gray she-cat with blood-red eyes

Medicine Cat: Amberfang- amber she-cat with water-blue eyes

Warriors:

Dirtpelt- pale brown tom with green eyes

Firepelt- reddish-orange tabby she-cat with blue eyes; formerly a rogue

Clawtail- orange tom with darker patches that look like clawmarks on the fur, sand-yellow eyes

Wingheart- white tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Snowheart- white tabby tom with green eyes; formerly a rogue

Nightsky- black she-cat with blue eyes; formerly a rogue

Robinwing- red-gray tabby tom with amber eyes

Sunfur- black she-cat with amber eyes; formerly a rogue

Naturesoul- bright yellow tortoiseshell tom with green eyes

Graytail- gray tortoiseshell she-cat with blue eyes; formerly a rogue

Winterstorm- beautiful white she-cat with light amber eyes

Lapisfur- blue-black tabby tom with amber eyes

Blackpelt- huge tabby tom with black fur and green eyes

Sparklefur- small light gray she-cat with baby blue eyes

Antfoot- light black she-cat with amber eyes

Mudpool- tortoiseshell brown tom with blue eyes; formerly a rogue

Horsetail- light brown tortoiseshell tom with deep black eyes

Grassbreeze- black tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes

Whiteclaw- small pale gray tortoiseshell she-cat with amber eyes

Dragoncloud- yellow-orange she-cat with darker stripes and blue eyes

Queens:

Dapplecoat- pale yellow tabby with blue-green eyes

Sizzlestorm- deep orange tortoiseshell with amber eyes; oldest queen in the Nursery

Petalflower- silver tabby with deep yellow eyes

Apprentices:

Purplepaw- pale black tabby tom with purple eyes; mentor Dragoncloud

Moonpaw- silver tabby tom with deep yellow eyes; mentor Sootclaw

Mudpaw- orange tabby she-cat with brown tinges and amber eyes; mentor Horsetail

Flakepaw- white tabby she-cat with blue eyes; formerly a rogue; mentor Amberfang

Blackpaw- black tabby tom with blue eyes; formerly a rogue; mentor Clawtail

Elders:

Brokenear- pale white tabby tom with green eyes; one whole ear missing; oldest tom in DawnClan

Applestorm- ginger tortoiseshell tom with blue eyes

Losteye- pale orange tabby she-cat with deep black eyes; half blind; oldest cat in DawnClan

Willowheart- tom with spotted gray fur and green eyes; retired medicine cat

Chapter 13

Dragoncloud trotted through the forest, Purplepaw following close behind. Dragoncloud swerved through the trees, making sure that Purplepaw was either close to or next to her. She stopped at the FireClan borders and pulled Purplepaw back, for he was about to step over the border.

"Purplepaw, this is FireClan borders. Sniff. What do you smell?" Dragoncloud asked Purplepaw.

Purplepaw parted his jaws to sniff the air, and wrinkled his muzzle, what most cats do when they smell an unfamiliar scent. He turned his head unknowingly towards Dragoncloud. "That is FireClan scent. Remember it," Dragoncloud meowed, flicking her tail for Purplepaw to follow.

Dragoncloud led Purplepaw towards the Great Rock. She leapt onto the Great Rock, and Purplepaw followed. "That is ForestClan," Dragoncloud whispered, flicking her tail towards ForestClan territory. "And that is CaveClan," Dragoncloud continued, flicking her tail forwards.

Purplepaw trotted towards the middle of the Great Rock. "I am the leader of all the clans!" he yowled happily, looking towards the sky. Dragoncloud chuckled, then motioned for Purplepaw to follow. Tonight was the Gathering.

***

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey gather under the Jaggedrock!" Grapestar yowled.

Dragoncloud trotted forwards, her tail placed neatly on her forepaws. Purplepaw followed, Lapisfur and Naturesoul behind him.

Antfoot was sitting with Sootclaw, Firepelt, and Moonpaw.

"I want," Grapestar began, "Grassbreeze, Robinwing, Sootclaw, Amberfang, Dirtpelt, Flakepaw, Nightsky, Wingheart, Graytail, Mudpool, Dragoncloud, and Purplepaw to come to the Gathering. Eat up and rest. We leave at moonrise."

Grapestar leapt down from the Jaggedrock and padded over to Sootclaw, Antfoot, Firepelt, and Moonpaw. The five trotted into his den. Dragoncloud padded forward to listen to their conversation. It might give hints to the prophecy.

"Grapestar," Sootclaw whispered, "why were you so determined to keep Dragoncloud an apprentice?"Grapestar stared at Sootclaw angrily.

"Becauase," Grapestar began, "Spottedstar wanted to kill her as an apprentice, so I agreed, because-"

Grapestar was cut off as Robinwing bounded in.

"Grapestar, it is time to go to the Gathering," he mewed. Grapestar nodded, then bounded towards the camp entrance, Sootclaw, Antfoot, Dirtpelt, and Nightsky were already there with Grapestar. Dragoncloud bounded over to Purplepaw, and the two followed Grapestar into the forest.

***

Dragoncloud trotted towards Fourtrees, Purplepaw trotting behind. Purplepaw padded over to some FireClan apprentices, and Dragoncloud bounded over to Birdfeather, Blazepelt, and Dartspeed. "Hi, Dragonpaw!" Blazepelt meowed, wrapping his tail around her.

"Dragon*cloud*," Dragoncloud corrected, grooming her pelt. Birdfeather, Blazepelt, and Dartspeed looked at Dragoncloud happily.

"Finally," Dartspeed sighed. "All of us are warriors."

The four warriors sat together as Grapestar yowled to start the Gathering. Grapestar, Mousestar, Twilightstar, and Orangetail

padded forwards.

"CaveClan will start," Orangetail yowled. "Moonstar has sadly passed away, so I am now leader of CaveClan. I am now Orangestar!"

"Orangestar! Orangestar!" the CaveClan cats yowled as Orangestar's chest swelled with pride.

"I have appointed a new deputy. My deputy is Nightheart." Orangestar continued. Nightheart padded forwards and sat at the base of the rock with Sootclaw, Hollowtrunk, and Brightpelt.

"Other than that, CaveClan is thriving," Orangestar finished.

Twilightstar trotted forwards. "FireClan is doing well. we have nothing to report," she mewed.

Mousestar and Grapestar padded forwards at the same time. "I request to let CloudClan become an official clan," Mousestar asked. At the same time, Spottedstar and all the CloudClan cats padded forwards from the direction of their cave and sat down. Spottedstar leapt up between Grapestar and Mousestar.

"We must become an official clan," she mewed. "The forest we live in was meant for five clans."

No one objected, so Spottedstar took it as a yes. She flicked her tail for Yellowstorm to pad forward and sit with Brightpelt, Sootclaw, Nightheart, and Hollowtrunk.

"Yellowstorm is my deputy," Spottedstar started, "and we have no medicine cat. We have no need." she continued.

"My turn." Grapestar started. "DawnClan has three new apprentices. Purplepaw, Mudpaw, and Moonpaw."

"Mudpaw! Moonpaw! Purplepaw!" Horsetail, Sootclaw and Dragoncloud yowled.

"This Gathering is over. Nothing else is to report," Grapestar meowed, leaping down from the Great Rock. The prophecy cats

waited for the clans to leave, then they leapt on top of the Great Rock.

"I can't believe CloudClan is now an official clan," Blazepelt mewed sadly, head hung low.

"How about we try to message StarClan in sleep?" Dragoncloud suggested.

Blazepelt, Birdfeather, and Dartspeed nodded, and soon, sleep overcame them.

***

Dragoncloud opened her eyes to see Heartclaw. She trotted towards her mother. "Congratulations, Dragoncloud," she mewed, resting her tail on Dragoncloud's shoulders.

She then found herself standing in front of Dawnstar, Firestar, Foreststar, Cavestar, and Cloudstar, with Blazepelt, Birdfeather, and Dartspeed next to her.

"Hello," Cloudstar mewed. "Thank you that you didn't deny Spottedstar her rightful position as the leader of the fifth clan."

Dawnstar trotted towards Dragoncloud, the other ancient leaders doing the same.

"Dragoncloud," Dawnstar whispered, "you are so close to figuring out the prophecy." Everything soon went black.

Small A/N: Sorry for the short chapter!

Author's Note #1

Hi! I celebrate Christmas, and I just baked some Christmas cookies! Have a look!

[image]

They're snickerdoodles! How do they look?

I'll try to write once more today. Bye!

Chapter 14

Dragoncloud's eyelids snapped open as she watched Dartspeed stir in his sleep as he , too, awoke. Birdfeather and Blazepelt opened their eyes as well, and the cats stared at each other.

"We are very close," Birdfeather whispered, shaking her pelt a little. Dartspeed nodded, then Blazepelt spoke for the group.

"We must find out who it is," Blazepelt whispered, kicking the stone under his paws. Dragoncloud stared at Dartspeed, who was staring into nothingness.

"I must return to DawnClan now," Dragoncloud meowed, leaping off the Great Rock and bounded away. Grapestar would probably be suspicious of her. She bounded away, and found the camp being attacked by ForestClan.

Dragoncloud bounded into battle and leapt on the nearest cat, Beewing. Beewing hissed and grappled with Dragoncloud. The two rolled around until Dragoncloud dug her claws into Beewing's belly. He hissed, then bucked Dragoncloud off him and raked at her side. She yowled and sunk her fangs into Beewing's tail. He hissed, and Fluffpelt came bounding towards Beewing and Dragoncloud. Fluffpelt knocked Dragoncloud off Beewing, then the two tag-teamed her.

Wingheart came bounding over with Graytail and saw the two cats fighting Dragoncloud. Wingheart leapt at Beewing, claws unsheathed. Graytail raked at Fluffpelt. Dragoncloud bounded away.

Dragoncloud spotted Grapestar and Mousestar bounding into the DawnClan leader's den. It looked like Mousestar was chasing him, so Dragoncloud bounded closer, eager to help. She edged closer to

the den and saw Grapestar and Mousestar sharing tongues peacefully, like mates.

Dragoncloud darted away into some shrubs far enough for the leaders to not spot her, but close enough for her to hear.

"Our plan is working well," Mousestar whispered, her tail twined to Grapestar's.

Grapestar nodded, staring into her amber eyes. "I also have my clan members Sootclaw, Antfoot, Firepelt, and Moonpaw with me on our plan." Blackpelt and a pale white ForestClan tabby named Leafclaw whirled past Dragoncloud, scuffling. She almost collided with them.

"The prophecy is getting in our way, though," Mousestar replied, standing up and pacing back and forth. "We must rid the clans of the prophecy in order for us to succeed. There is one cat from each clan in the prophecy. We need to know who those cats are."

Grapestar twitched his whiskers and padded up to Mousestar. "My warrior Dragoncloud has been a bit suspicious. She always disappears, and she has made friends with cats of other clans. We must kill her in order to achieve our goals." Grapestar padded towards the entrance of the den.

"We need to meet them." he mewed as Mousestar followed him out of the den. Dragoncloud bounded after them.

***

Dragoncloud hid herself the best she could. She darted from bush to bush quietly as Mousestar and Grapestar padded away. *What are they doing?* Dragoncloud thought as the leaders paved a path through the forest.

It was a long while, but the leaders finally stopped in an area between Brown's cave home and CloudClan's camp. Two cats appeared out of the bushes, but it wasn't light enough for Dragoncloud to make out who they were.

"Greetings," one of the cats mewed. Grapestar nodded, as if it was a

response, and sat, Mousestar and the two others doing the same.

"How are you doing, Spottedstar?" Mousestar mewed to the cat on the left. *Spottedstar, Mousestar, and Grapestar. Who's the last cat?* Dragoncloud thought curiously as she stared at the figure next to Spottedstar. The only trait Dragoncloud could make out is that the cat was a she.

"Our side of the plan is working well," Grapestar began. "We both have supporters, and no one has a clue. The prophecy, though, needs to be rid of." Spottedstar nodded.

"I might have a clue of the prophecy cats," Spottedstar meowed. "I once captured four cats. Their names were Blazepelt, Birdfeather, Dartspeed, and Dragonpaw." Spottedstar turned to look at Mousestar.

"Blazepelt is of FireClan, Birdfeather is of CaveClan, Dragonpaw, now Dragoncloud, is of Grapestar's clan, and Dartspeed is of my clan. Grapestar, we have figured out the prophecy cats." Mousestar mewed happily as his tail stroke her brown pelt.

"I have met them. Please don't kill them," the obscure she-cat finally mewed. Spottedstar tilted her head, and Grapestar and Moustar looked at her questioningly. "They brought my kin to DawnClan. Grapestar, what about Heart? My kit that went missing?"

"Oh," Grapestar murmured, shuffling his paws. "Her name was Heartclaw. She gave birth to four kits, my warriors Antfoot, Naturesoul, Lapisfur, and Dragoncloud. She died of sickness."

Dragoncloud flinched. Heartclaw was that cat's daughter. That means that cat was her grandmother. Grapestar, Mousestar, Spottedstar, and the cat continued.

"I didn't know that, Brown. Sorry for kidnapping them," Spottedstar mewed, stroking Brown's pelt. *Grapestar, Mousestar, Spottedstar, and Brown. What is going on?* Dragoncloud thought as the four stood, the sound of the river quiet in the background.

"We need to get back to our duties," Grapestar finally mewed after

long moments of silence. "Littermates, we will accomplish our goals."

Brown and Spottedstar trotted away, Grapestar and Mousestar in the other direction. Dragoncloud bounded after the leaders.

If Brown is my grandmother, Sunfur and Nightsky are my aunts, and Flakepaw, Blackpaw, Firepelt, Mudpool, and Graytail are my half siblings. Grapestar, Spottedstar, and Mousestar are my great aunts and uncle! I share blood with the most evil cats in the forest! Dragoncloud thought on the way back to camp.

***

When they returned to camp, the ForestClan cats were long gone. Grapestar padded into camp, Dragoncloud following afterwards. Everyone's wounds were treated. A pile of fresh kill lay in the middle of camp.

Dragoncloud snatched a vole and trotted towards the elders' den. *If Grapestar, Spottedstar, and Brown are related to Mousestar, then Applestorm shares blood with them, and myself as well!* Dragoncloud realized. She entered the elders' den. Willowheart, Losteye, and Brokenear were sleeping, and Applestorm was sitting away from them.

Dragoncloud trotted over to Applestorm and dropped the vole. "Would you like to share?" she asked him. Applestorm nodded, and she and him started munching on the vole.

"Dragoncloud," Applestorm whispered, "there's something I have to tell you."

Small A/N: Ooooh, cliffhanger! Sorry for not updating for the past week. It's Christmas season! I just got The New Prophecy, Power of Three, and Omen of the Stars for Christmas. I have some reading to do. See ya!

Chapter 15

Dragoncloud shifted her gaze towards Applestorm's eyes, his eyes a tempting sight. He looked down at his forepaws worriedly, and his tail was twitching. He was shivering, and his whiskers were twitching.

"I am still a young cat," he began nervously. "I just asked Branchstar to join the elders' den as an excuse of patheticness. I am involved with Grapestar's, Mousestar's, Spottedstar's, and Brown's plans. You can't walk out of here with that information, though. You must die."

Applestorm leapt at Dragoncloud, claws unsheathed. He raked Dragoncloud's pelt. Dragoncloud flung Applestorm off her, and he tumbled outside. Dragoncloud turned around and darted towards Applestorm, raking at his pelt. Applestorm hissed and nipped at her ear. She yowled and nipped at his tail. He heaved Dragoncloud off him and started clawing at her face when Grapestar bounded forwards.

"What is going on?" Grapestar hissed.

Applestorm shifted to looking weak and helpless and frail, as an elder really is. He slunk forward weakly and collapsed at Grapestar's feet.

"G-grapestar," he murmured, "Dragoncloud a-attacked me."

Grapestar hissed and stomped forwards to Dragoncloud, back arched. He stopped and stared with his purple eyes at Dragoncloud, who stepped back frightenedly.

"You attacked Applestorm," Grapestar repeated. "You will be punished." Dragoncloud gulped. She was nervous. She didn't even attack Applestorm! She wasn't allowed to explain her position!

"Follow me," he hissed, trudging into the forest. Leaf-fall leaves crunched under his feet. , Dragoncloud followed nervously.

***

Dragoncloud was shoved forwards, onto the middle of the Great Rock. Mousestar was there with Dartspeed. Spottedstar was with Birdfeather, and Brown with Blazepelt. The three were standing in the middle.

"Hello, Dragoncloud," Dartspeed whispered as Blazepelt and Birdfeather were shoved forwards as well. Grapestar hauled himself over the top of the Great Rock, Mousestar, Spottedstar, and Brown doing the same.

"Come on, please," Brown pleaded as Grapestar stomped towards them. "I don't want them to die."

Grapestar ignored the plead. He stared at Blazepelt, then at Dartspeed, then at Birdfeather, and finally, at Dragoncloud. "StarClan isn't real. They are made up, so we have no help with our plan. I will tell you the whole thing, so you will know it when you 'join StarClan'."

Dragoncloud gulped. That meant he was going to tell them, then kill them! Dragoncloud had no choice, though. Brown, Spottedstar, and Mousestar guarded any way out. Brown had a worried expression on her face.

"So," he began, "Applestorm, Spottedstar, Mousestar, Brown, and I were born half-clan. We were half DawnClan, half ForestClan. Our parents died in battles, so we decided to live in DawnClan, where our mother lived. Another queen took care of us, and we were raised in DawnClan. Once we were warriors, Mousepelt, Spottedfur, Brownclaw, Applestorm and I started to separate paths.

"Mousepelt wanted to be made deputy once Electrobolt died, but she wasn't, so she left to join ForestClan. She became leader there. Spottedfur found CloudClan while she was exploring, so she went to join them and once again, became leader. Brownclaw wasn't satisfied with clan life, so she left DawnClan and became a loner.

Applestorm stayed and became an elder so he could be seen as weak and frail.

"We could still communicate in dreams, so we did, and created a plan. Once we found who killed our mother, we were going to kill them and rise to power to make our mother proud."

"Now, you will die!" Mousestar hissed as Applestorm clamoured out of the bushes, wounds all healed. He leapt onto the Great Rock.

"Run," Dartspeed whispered into Dragoncloud's ear as Mousestar leapt. They darted away into FireClan territory. It was the closest and they could probably lose the cats. Blazepelt leapt into a shrub, and Birdfeather, Dartspeed, and Dragoncloud did as well.

All the other three had worried looks on their faces. Blazepeltwas sniffing for them, Birdfeather was laying down, exhausted, and Dartspeed's whiskers and tail were twitching. Dragoncloud lay down next to Birdfeather. She wasn't much older than Dragoncloud.

"Let's go to my camp," Blazepelt suggested. "Twilightstar will take care of us. Follow me."

Birdfeather stood up and followed Blazepelt, Dartspeed and Dragoncloud doing the sameafterwards. Dartspeed and Dragoncloud's fur pressed together and their paw steps were matched. *No,* Dragoncloud scolded herself. *You can't fall in love with a cat from another clan.*

Blazepelt and Birdfeather entered camp, Dragoncloud and Dartspeed soon after. Hollowtrunk, Brokentooth, and Hugefoot, cats she recognized from Gatherings, we're talking with Twilightstar. Hollowtrunk spotted the prophecy cats, and he bounded over.

"Hello, Blazepelt. Who are these cats?" he asked, staring at Birdfeather, Dartspeed, and Dragoncloud. "They're not from FireClan."

"I'll tell you later. We must speak with Twilightstar." Blazepelt replied sternly. Hollowtrunk nodded and bounded towards Twilightstar. Hollowtrunk padded back with Twilightstar by his

side.

"Twilightstar," Blazepelt began, "Mousestar, Grapestar, Spottedstar, Applestorm, and another cat are after us. You must help. Can we stay here for a few days?" Twilightstar nodded and led them to the medicine den, where Magictail and Goldenpaw were treating a cat named Lightningpelt.

***

Dragoncloud yawned and stretched as Birdfeather trotted back with a plump vole. She dropped it, and the two shared the vole. Blazepelt trotted back from a patrol, Dartspeed behind him.

"Birdfeather, Dragoncloud, we must take them down today." Blazepelt meowed. Dragoncloud nodded slowly and worriedly, but also confidently.

"I thought Grapestar was bad, but I never thought he would be like that," Dragoncloud admitted as they padded out of camp. Dartspeed was padding next to her, and Blazepelt and Birdfeather in front.

A wall of rock blocked their path a little later, and no way past it. Dragoncloud discovered a small crevice in the rock, and climbed in. Blazepelt and Birdfeather stayed outside to guard it. Dragoncloud and Dartspeed climbed through the tunnel in the rock and entered a dimly lit cave. Grapestar, Spottedstar, Mousestar, Applestorm, and Brown were standing over a large group of cats.

Dragoncloud recognized some of the cats. They were Sootclaw, Antfoot, Firepelt, and Moonpaw of DawnClan, Sunstroke, Lionclaw, Icicletail, Scentwhisker, and Gigaheart of ForestClan, Brownhead, Ravenheart, and Yellowstorm of CloudClan, and a few cats she didn't know.

"First," Grapestar began, "Applestorm and Brown will receive her new suffix, as part of our bloodline. Brown, you will now be known as Brownnose."

Brownnose was frowning, as if she wasn't happy. Grapestar, Mousestar, Spottedstar, Applestorm, and Brownnose watched the

cats, then bounded towards the entrance. Dragoncloud and Dartspeed shifted, and watched as they charged towards the entrance.

Dragoncloud and Dartspeed darted after the cats and leapt out of the tunnel. Blazepelt and Birdfeather cowered under Grapestar and Mousestar.

"You are a prophecy cat," Grapestar hissed. "Prepare to die."

Grapestar leapt at Blazepelt, and Mousestar leapt at Birdfeather. The four scuffled. Dragoncloud leapt at Spottedstar, and Dartspeed leapt at Applestorm.

***

All eight cats were terribly wounded, but they wouldn't give up. Brownnose, tired of watching, separated the fight.

"Stop, please," Brownnose pleaded. Her littermates didn't listen. Brownnose, angry, leapt at her littermates. She viciously ripped at Mousestar until she stopped moving. She did the same with Grapestar and Spottedstar. She killed Applestorm with ease.

"Let's go," she whispered.

The five trotted back to the forest, leaving the crowd of cats. Their leaders were dead, so they'd probably abandon their clans.

Dragoncloud entered DawnClan camp with Brownnose at her side. Wingheart trotted up. "Where's Grapestar and Sootclaw?" she asked.

"Grapestar is dead, and Sootclaw is now a rogue," Dragoncloud whispered. Amberfang came bounding out of her den, Flakepaw at her side.

"I've received a message from StarClan," she meowed. "They say that Wingheart is new leader."

Wingheart, looking proud, bounded towards the Jaggedrock and leapt on top of it.

"I would like to name the new deputy," she began. "Dragoncloud will be the new deputy of DawnClan."

Dragoncloud gulped. She was going to become deputy of DawnClan? Dragoncloud trotted up and leapt onto the top of the Jaggedrock. "I will serve DawnClan well," she murmured.

Wingheart leapt off the Jaggedrock and followed Amberfang out of camp.

Now, Dragoncloud thought, *I can prove my worth. I solved the prophecy.*

Alliances Part 2

DawnClan

Leader: Wingstar- white tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Deputy: Dragoncloud- yellow-orange she-cat with darker stripes and blue eyes

Medicine Cat: Flakefall- white tabby she-cat with blue eyes; formerly a rogue

Warriors:

Dirtpelt- pale brown tom with green eyes

Snowheart- white tabby tom with green eyes; formerly a rogue

Nightsky- black she-cat with blue eyes; formerly a rogue

Blackfang- black tabby tom with blue eyes; formerly a rogue

Robinwing- red-gray tabby tom with amber eyes

Sunfur- black she-cat with amber eyes; formerly a rogue

Mudsplash- brown tabby she-cat with orange tinges and green eyes

Naturesoul- bright yellow tortoiseshell tom with green eyes

Graytail- gray tortoiseshell she-cat with blue eyes; formerly a rogue

Winterstorm- beautiful white she-cat with light amber eyes

Lapisfur- blue-black tabby tom with amber eyes

Mudpool- tortoiseshell brown tom with blue eyes; formerly a rogue

Grassbreeze- black tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes

Purplesight- pale black tabby tom with purple eyes

Queens:

Dapplecoat- pale yellow tabby with blue-green eyes (mother of Harekit, Leapordkit, and Summerkit)

Sizzlestorm- deep orange tortoiseshell with amber eyes; oldest queen in the Nursery (mother of Tigerkit, Coldkit, and Poppykit)

Petalflower- silver tabby with deep yellow eyes (nursing kits)

Whiteclaw- small pale gray tortoiseshell she-cat with amber eyes (mother of Crescentpaw, Icepaw, Runningpaw, and Owlpaw)

Apprentices:

Crescentpaw- pale white she-cat with green eyes; mentor Dragoncloud

Icepaw- ice-blue tabby tom with darker stripes and amber eyes; mentor Grassbreeze

Runningpaw- brown tabby tom with blue eyes: mentor Dirtpelt

Owlpaw- pale brown she-cat with black eyes; mentor Mudpool

Elders:

Brokenear- pale white tabby tom with green eyes; one whole ear missing; oldest tom in DawnClan

Losteye- pale orange tabby she-cat with deep black eyes; half blind; oldest cat in DawnClan

Willowheart- tom with spotted gray fur and green eyes; retired medicine cat

Brownnose- red-brown she-cat with green eyes; formerly a rogue

FireClan

Leader: Twilightstar- midnight gray tabby she-cat with blue eyes

Deputy: Hollowtrunk- dark brown tortoiseshell tom with gray eyes

Medicine Cat: Magictail- dark orange tabby she-cat with amber eyes

ForestClan

Leader: Brightstar- bright white tortoiseshell tom with blue eyes

Deputy: Leafclaw- pale white tabby tom with blue-green eyes

Medicine Cat: Happyfur- black tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes

CaveClan

Leader: Orangestar- huge orange tabby tom with yellow eyes

Deputy: Nightheart- pale black tabby she-cat with black eyes

Medicine Cat: Fruitbat- blue-gray tortoiseshell tom with blue eyes

CloudClan

Leader: Faststar- swift brown tabby tom with green eyes

Deputy: Ravenheart- sleek black she-cat with green eyes

Medicine Cat: Yellowstorm- gray she-cat with yellow eyes

Non-Clan Cats

Scar- dark gray she-cat with blood-red eyes

Blade- silver tabby tom with deep yellow eyes

Talon- reddish-orange tabby she-cat with blue eyes

Fang- light black she-cat with amber eyes

Tooth- orange-yellow tortoiseshell she-cat with blue-green eyes

Scorch- golden tortoiseshell she-cat with blue eyes

Claw- ice-white tabby tom with amber eyes

Death- huge golden tabby she-cat with green eyes

Blood- light black tabby tom with blood-red eyes

Things you didn't know about Part 1:

-Options for Dragoncloud's name were Dragontail, Dragonheart, Dragonvine, and Dragontooth.

-I was originally just going to exile Grapestar and his littermates, but decided to let Brownnose kill them because Wingstar wouldn't receive her nine lives.

-I was also only going to exile Grapestar and his littermates, not Sootclaw, Antfoot, Firepelt, and Moonpaw. Sootclaw was going to become Sootstar, then name Wingheart as her deputy, then Sootstar died, then Wingstar became leader, but it would've taken a while.

-Moonpaw's warrior name was going to be Moonfang.

-Twilightstar's warrior name was Twilightsky , and Moonstar's was Mooneyes.

-I let the rogues come in because I personally felt that DawnClan was way too small. I was wrong, though, because CaveClan is the smallest.

-I originally going to have at the time, Dragonpaw, Birdfeather, Blazepelt, and Dartspeed visit ThunderClan to ask Firestar for help, but cut it out because it would've been copyright infringement, and because it was just a bad idea.

-The four prophecy cats were going to be Dragoncloud, Snakeclaw, Deadleaf, and Shadowpaw/foot. Would you've liked that better? Let me know!

-I was originally going to have Dragoncloud and Dartspeed fall in love, but changed it because Dragoncloud would have to take a break from her warrior duties. Maybe it'll come in Part 2

.....

-Dartspeed was going to be the last cat to recieve his warrior name.

-When Orangetail became deputy, it was going to be Birdfeather, but I decided against it. When Moonstar died, Birdfeather would've become Birdstar, and I couldn't do that because she would've been too caught up in her leader duties to work on the prophecy.

-I remember there were these four kits, Summerkit, Oceankit, Brownkit, and one I didn't remember in the first few chapters I presented, but gave up on. And, if they are there, just pretend they died.

Chapter 16

Dragoncloud yawned and stretched as the pale gray morning light seeped in the warriors den. Eight moons had passed, and Wingstar was a fantastic leader. Whiteclaw had moved to the nursery and given birth to a healthy litter of kits. Today was their apprentice ceremony.

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey gather under the Jaggedrock!" Wingstar yowled.

There hadn't been new apprentices for a moon now, so the warriors had to do apprentice duties. Dragoncloud hated rubbing mouse bile in the elders' fur. Losteye and Brokenear hated it when the mouse bile was rubbed into their fur, Willowheart really didn't care, and Brownnose, she would jump up anytime a tick fell off her.

Dragoncloud trotted forwards and stopped next to Purplesight, her former apprentice. Whiteclaw was standing in front of the nursery, her four kits playing around her.

"This sunrise, we gather to name four apprentices. Come forward, you four."

All four bounded forwards excitedly and stopped in front of Wingstar. They were all twitching with excitement.

"From this day forward," Wingstar began, "until she has earned her warrior name, this apprentice will be called Crescentpaw."

"Dragoncloud," she continued, "you are ready for another apprentice. I expect you to pass on what I taught you to Crescentpaw."

Dragoncloud trotted up and bumped noses with the pale white she-cat. Crescentpaw was bubbly and the enthusiastic. She liked that. Purplesight was like that when he was an apprentice.

The next kit, named Icepaw, was given Grassbreeze as a mentor. The next kit, Runningpaw, was given Dirtpelt as a mentor. The final kit, Owlpaw, was given Mudpool as a mentor.

After the ceremony finished, Dragoncloud organized patrols. She leapt onto the Jaggedrock.

"Robinwing, patrol the FireClan borders. Take Winterstorm, Grassbreeze, and Icepaw. Purplesight, patrol the ForestClan borders. Take Graytail, Mudpool, and Owlpaw with you. Mudsplash, organize a hunting patrol. Take whomever you would like to."

Dragoncloud leapt off the Jaggedrock and padded over to Crecsentpaw. She was in the apprentices' den, checking out her new den.

"Come on, Crescentpaw," she mewed. "Let's go to explore the forest."

Crescentpaw turned around and dashed to Dragoncloud's side. She definitely had her father's size. Blackpelt was her father, but he had died in a recent battle with ForestClan. Brightpelt, now, Brightstar, had been peaceful his first moon of leading, but now he was a terrible enemy, like Mousestar was.

Dragoncloud led Crescentpaw outside the camp. She remembered the day she was given Purplesight as an apprentice, back when he was a 'paw. That was when.....*Grapestar* was leader. Dragoncloud knew he, Mousestar, Spottedstar, and Applestorm resided in the dark forest now.

Crescentpaw bounded in front happily, Dragoncloud behind her. Dragoncloud pulled Crescentpaw back when she almost crossed the FireClan border. Even though Blazepelt was a friend of Dragoncloud's, it was still risky.

"Why'd you do that?" she whined.

"Because," Dragoncloud meowed as she dropped Crescentpaw, "that

is FireClan border. An entirely different clan."

Crescentpaw pawed at the ground grumpily then followed Dragoncloud through the forest. At the ForestClan borders, Crescentpaw wrinkled her nose in disgust.

"Ew, what's that smell?" she asked, backing away from the border.

"That is ForestClan," Dragoncloud replied, trotting over to Crescentpaw. She was hiding in a shrub nearby. "Follow me, Crescentpaw."

Dragoncloud turned around and bounded through the forest. Crescentpaw struggled to keep up. Dragoncloud leapt up onto the Great Rock once they arrived at Fourtrees.

"Dragoncloud," Crescentpaw asked, "what is it like being deputy?"

"Well," Dragoncloud responded, leaping down from the Great Rock, "it is hard work. I have to assign patrols, and give advice to the leader, and-" Dragoncloud saw that Crescentpaw was trying to nip her tail by spinning in circles. She wasn't even paying attention to Dragoncloud.

"I'll teach you to hunt, then," Dragoncloud sighed, parting her jaws to sniff the air. She scented a mouse and dropped into the hunter's crouch as a mouse scurried out of a bush. She stalked it, then leapt onto it and killed it swiftly.

"That was amazing!" Crescentpaw mewed. Dragoncloud nodded, picked up the mouse by the tail, and trotted back to camp, Crescentpaw at her side.

***

Mudsplash's patrol was just returning. Mudsplash was followed by Dirtpelt, Runningpaw, and Naturesoul. They dropped their prey on the fresh kill pile. Dragoncloud spotted Icepaw and Owlpaw tumbling in front of the apprentices' den. Crescentpaw and Runningpaw dashed over to join them.

Dragoncloud trotted over. "Look!" squealed Icepaw. "Here comes the

deputy!" Icepaw, Runningpaw, and Owlpaw stiffened and straightened, but Crescentpaw remained in her stance.

"Well," she mewed proudly, "the deputy is my mentor! Not yours!" she leapt onto Owlpaw, and the two sisters tumbled together. Runningpaw and Icepaw stared at them, then bounded over to join them. Dragoncloud picked a rabbit from the fresh kill pile and trotted over to Purplesight. He and Lapisfur were sharing tongues.

"Purplesight," she mewed, "would you like to share this rabbit?" Purplesight reminded Dragoncloud too much of Grapestar. Purplesight nodded, so Dragoncloud dropped the rabbit and the two began to chomp on it.

"I wish Antfoot didn't support Grapestar," Lapisfur mewed. Antfoot was their littermate. She was terribly distraught when she found out Antfoot supported Grapestar. She was a rogue now, along with Sootclaw, Firepelt, and Moonpaw.

Wingstar was perched below the Jaggedrock, chomping on a mouse. Dragoncloud trotted over and layed down next to her. Flakefall trotted out of her den and grabbed a vole. She brought it back into her den. Amberfang had sadly died of Greencough this leaf bare, and Flakepaw at the time hadn't been able to treat her. Flakepaw made the journey to the Nightstone alone and became Flakefall.

"Hello, Dragoncloud," Wingstar mewed through a mouthful of vole. "Is something wrong?" Dragoncloud shook her head. Tonight was the Gathering. Wingstar has to bring her deputy unless something's wrong. She wanted Crescentpaw to come.

"Dragoncloud," Wingstar continued, "would you like to decide who will go to the Gathering?" Dragoncloud nodded. Crecsentpaw could come! She listed off the names she had chosen. Wingstar nodded, then leapt onto the Jaggedrock. She yowled for a clan meeting.

Wingstar listed off the names Dragoncloud had told her. "I would like Dragoncloud, Flakefall, Grassbreeze, Robinwing, Dirtpelt, Mudpool, Graytail, Winterstorm, Crescentpaw, Icepaw, Owlpaw, and Runningpaw to come to the Gathering. Eat up and rest. We leave at moonhigh."

Wingstar leapt off the Jaggedrock gracefully and trotted back into her den as Crescentpaw bounded over to her mentor.

"Dragoncloud! Dragoncloud!" Crescentpaw squealed. "Icepaw, Owlpaw, Runningpaw and I get to go to the Gathering together!" Dragoncloud smiled at her new apprentice.

***

As Dragoncloud arrived at Fourtrees, Dartspeed bounded over. "I know you must sit with Ravenheart, Leafclaw, Nightheart, and Hollowtrunk, but can you and I talk for a little?"

Dragoncloud nodded, then followed Dartspeed to a small corner. Blazepelt and Birdfeather were there as well.

"Dragoncloud," Dartspeed whispered, "I was thinking of joining DawnClan. ForestClan isn't what it used to be. Just consider that please. Go ahead now, sit with the deputies. I was always a little jealous of you."

Dragoncloud looked back at her friends, then sat next to Ravenheart. Wingstar, Twilightstar, Orangestar, Brightstar, and Faststar were already up on the Great Rock. Wingstar yowled, signaling for the Gathering to start.

"I will talk first," Wingstar meowed. "We have four new apprentices, Crescentpaw, Icepaw, Runningpaw, and Owlpaw."

"Crescentpaw! Icepaw! Runningpaw! Owlpaw!" Dragoncloud yowled. Soon, all the DawnClan cats were doing it.

"DawnClan is doing good," Wingstar finished. "We do not have anything else to say."

Twilightstar padded forward. "FireClan is doing well," she mewed. "We have nothing to say."

Orangestar padded forwards. "We have three new warriors in CaveClan," he mewed. "Snowflake, Currentwave, and Moonsight."

Three cats held their heads high, so Dragoncloud guessed that they

were Snowflake, Currentwave, and Moonsight. Afterwards, Brightstar padded forwards. "ForestClan is doing well," he mewed. "We have nothing to report."

Faststar padded forwards. "CloudClan has two new warriors," he mewed. "Bluedash and Wolfheart." The warriors Bluedash and Wolfheart padded forwards. The CloudClan cats were cheering their names.

"The Gathering is over," Wingstar mewed, leaping down from the Jaggedrock. Dragoncloud was about to follow her when a figure leapt out of the shadows and clawed at Dragoncloud's back. Dragoncloud turned around and recognized the figure attacking her.

"Antfoot!"

Chapter 17

"That is not my name anymore. I am Fang." Antfoot, now Fang, gestured to the cats climbing out of the bushes behind her. "Sootclaw is now Scar, Firepelt is Talon, and Moonpaw is Blade."

Dragoncloud hissed and clawed at Fang's underbelly. She yowled, then clawed at Dragoncloud's face, leaving a deep gash that bled heavily. Dragoncloud was a bit bigger than Fang, so she managed to buck Fang off her back and race after DawnClan.

Sootclaw, Antfoot, Firepelt, and Moonpaw are now Scar, Fang, Talon, and Blade, Dragoncloud thought miserably as they entered camp. She collapsed, because the gash on her forehead was bleeding profoundly. Wingstar rushed over.

"Flakefall!" Wingstar yowled. Flakefall climbed out of her den and rushed over to Dragoncloud. She stumbled over to Flakefall's den, where she collapsed in a nice nest. Flakefall placed cobwebs over Dragoncloud's forehead and gave her poppy seeds. "Here, eat these," she whispered.

***

Not long ago, Sizzlestorm had three kits: Poppykit, Tigerkit, and Coldkit. Dragoncloud trotted out of the medicine den to see the three kits playing outside the nursery. Dragoncloud's gash had fully healed, but it left a nasty scar.

"Dragoncloud!" Wingstar called. Dragoncloud turned her head and trotted over to her leader. Wingstar was standing under the Jaggedrock. "I would like you to go Twolegplace to find two kittypets named Whiskers and Patches."

Those cats, Dragoncloud rolled her eyes. The two kittypets her, Dartspeed, Blazepelt, and Birdfeather had to deal with before they got captured by Spottedstar's CloudClan. They were kittypets. Why did Wingstar want them?

"They live in a brown Twoleg nest just outside of our territory. Take whomever you want with you." Wingstar meowed. Dragoncloud nodded, then trotted towards the warriors' den. She already knew who she wanted to take.

"Lapisfur! Naturesoul! Purplesight!" Dragoncloud yowled. Lapisfur and Purplesight stood up quickly. Naturesoul was dozing right next to Graytail, not budging. Dragoncloud trotted over and shook Naturesoul awake quickly.

"Come on," Dragoncloud mewed. "We're going somewhere. Follow me."

Naturesoul opened his eyes slowly and yawned. He stood up and stared at Dragoncloud, then nodded. Dragoncloud turned around and trotted out of the warriors' den, Naturesoul, Lapisfur, and Purplesight following. Before leaving, she trotted over to Dirtpelt.

"Can you train Crescentpaw for me today?" she asked. Dirtpelt nodded, then padded back to the warriors' den to sleep. The moon was very low in the sky, so it was almost day. Dragoncloud pelted out of camp, Lapisfur, Naturesoul, and Purplesight following.

***

Dragoncloud emerged from the bushes near Twolegplace. Naturesoul emerged soon after, following Lapisfur and Purplesight. A brown Twoleg nest was about eight fox lengths away. Dragoncloud bounded towards the Twoleg nest and squeezed through a gap in the fence and bounded towards the Twoleg nest.

The black tabby she-cat Whiskers and her mate, a brown and white patched tom, were laying down eating, three younger cats laying down next to her. One was a spotted white and gold she-cat with amber eyes, a black tabby tom with blue eyes, and a gray tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes.

Dragoncloud stared through the window for a while. Suddenly, Purplesight yowled. A Twoleg shrieked and bounded over to the cats, with another following it. The first one grabbed Dragoncloud and Purplesight, the other grasping Lapisfur and Naturesoul. They bounded in the Twoleg nest and slammed the door shut. They were trapped.

The Twolegs dropped the cats. They bounded over to Whiskers and Patches.

"Oh, you, that cat," Whiskers hissed. "Was it Dragonpaw?"

Dragoncloud hissed. "Dragon*cloud*," Dragoncloud hissed. "These are Naturesoul, Lapisfur, and Purplesight."

Whiskers stared glumly at Patches and the other three cats. She turned back to Dragoncloud.

"Fine, Dragoncloud," she hissed. "As you know, this is Patches. That is Gold," she gestured to the spotted white and gold she-cat, "that is Keen," she motioned towards the black tabby tom, "and that is Briar." she tilted her head towards the gray tortoiseshell she-cat.

"Just asking, do you know Wingheart, also Wingstar?"

"Wingheart?" Patches asked questionably, tilting his head curiously. Whiskers nodded her head.

"Wing," Whiskers meowed. "She was my littermate, but she left to go to the forest one day when she was about two moons old and never came back. Wing met me sometimes and told me of her adventures as a DawnClan cat. She said she was Wingkit, then Wingpaw, then Wingheart. Why do you change your names?"

Dragoncloud ignored the question. "Can you come with me?" She motioned towards the door. "Patches, Gold, Keen, Briar can come too."

Before they could leave, a small Twoleg bounded in with four collars. It picked up Dragoncloud and held the collar that read on the gold clip "Sunset" in messy letters. She was moving it towards Dragoncloud's neck. She was going to clip it on!

Dragoncloud wriggled and squirmed. She clawed at the Twoleg's face. It shrieked and let go of Dragoncloud. Dragoncloud bounded for the open door, Whiskers waiting. She was slowed down because of her growing belly. They leapt over the fence and bounded for the forest.

***

Whiskers and Dragoncloud arrived at camp. Patches, Gold, Keen, Briar, Lapisfur, Naturesoul, and Purplesight were already there. Patches was talking with Wingstar. Whiskers bounded over and rubbed muzzles with Wingstar.

"I wish you never left me," Whiskers muttered, "I want to stay with you. I would like to join you."

"Good," Wingstar responded. "I need to talk with you. But first," she leapt onto the Jaggedrock. Wingstar yowled for a clan meeting.

"I would like to give Whiskers, Patches, and their kits their clan names. What are their names?"

Whiskers whispered her kits' names to Wingstar. She nodded, then stared blankly at the sky. She turned to the clan again.

"First. Whiskers and Patches. Come forward."

Whiskers and Patches trotted forwards and sat under Wingstar. They looked at the Jaggedrock, happy to receive their names.

"Patches, Whiskers, Gold, Keen, Briar, do you promise to uphold the warrior code at the cost of your life?"

Whiskers and Patches nodded. Wingstar leapt off the Jaggedrock and tore at their collars until they ripped off.

"Whiskers, in honor of your black pelt, your warrior name will be Blackwhisker. Patches, in honor of your white patches, you will be named Whitepatch."

Blackwhisker and Whitepatch looked proud. They stared at their kits Gold, Keen, and Briar. Wingstar trotted over to the cats and

ripped their collars off as well.

"Gold, in honor of your gold and white patches, you will be named Goldwhite. Keen, in honor of your piercing eyes, you will be named Keeneye. Briar, in honor of your gray tortoiseshell pelt, you will be named Briarshell."

Blackwhisker, Whitepatch, Goldwhite, Keeneye, and Briarshell stared happily at Wingstar. They turned around and trotted over to others to talk. Goldwhite, Keeneye, and Briarshell padded over to Dragoncloud.

"What exactly do you do here?" Goldwhite asked.

Dragoncloud led them to the warriors' den and layed down. Goldwhite, Keeneye, and Briarshell layed down too.

"So," Dragoncloud began, "there are five clans in the forest. Our clan, DawnClan, FireClan, ForestClan, CaveClan, and CloudClan. We fight for territory and for food. Our warrior ancestors are called StarClan, and they watch over us. There is one leader, who's name ends with 'star, like Wingstar, Twilightstar, Orangestar, Brightstar, and Faststar. Deputies are the leader's highest warrior. They assign patrols for borders and hunting patrols.

"Apprentices always have 'paw at the end of their name. They train to be a warrior, with a mentor to help them train. Kits always have 'kit at the end of their name. They become apprentices at six moons old. Queens live in the nursery when they're expecting kits. Medicine cats choose their path: they can choose to be an apprentice to the medicine cat at six moons old."

Dragoncloud gasped. That took a lot of air, and her lungs were tired.

"Who's deputy and who's medicine cat?" Keeneye asked.

Dragoncloud sighed. "Flakefall is our medicine cat, and I am deputy. I must go, now. You should talk with Winterstorm. She'll help you train."

Dragoncloud stood up and trotted over to Wingstar, who was

talking with Blackwhisker. Wingstar nodded, and Blackwhisker trotted over to the nursery, Whitepatch following.

"Blackwhisker is moving to the nursery. She's expecting kits! New warriors for DawnClan!" Wingstar mewed happily. "She's expecting them in a few days time. At least Poppykit, Tigerkit, and Coldkit will have other kits to play with."

Dragoncloud nodded and turned to organize patrols when a yowl came from the nursery. Whitepatch bounded out.

"Blackwhisker is kitting!" he yowled.

***

Flakefall rushed out of her den with herbs in her mouth and bounded into the nursery. In the rules of this forest, the leader and the deputy get to see the kits first and hear their names. More painful yowling came from the nursery. Petalflower, Sizzlestorm, Dapplecoat, and Whiteclaw were heard with calm, soothing voices.

Soon, the painful yowling stopped. Wingstar and Dragoncloud trotted inside the nursery. Three kits layed in front of Blackwhisker. All were she-cats and had amber eyes. One was pure white except for blotches of brown and black on her muzzle. One was jet black except for her tail and the tips of her ears. The final one was a beautiful gold.

"This one is Spotted," she motioned towards the first kit, "this one is Raven," she gestured towards the second one, "and this one is Gryffin." She nodded her head towards the final kit.

"Spottedkit, Ravenkit, and Gryffinkit. Excellent choices." she mewed. Soon, Poppykit, Tigerkit, and Coldkit bounded over. Tigerkit and Coldkit were tomcats, so now Poppykit had she-cat friends.

"Who are they?" Tigerkit asked. "We want to know the names of our friends when they're ready to play."

"Didn't you listen?" Poppykit replied snappily. "That is Spottedkit, that is Ravenkit, and that is Gryffinkit."

"Let's go play already!" Coldkit whined. "I don't want to wait for them. Let's go!"

Poppykit, Coldkit, and Tigerkit bounded away, leaving the three newborns.

"Whitepatch!" Wingstar called. "Blackwhisker's kits, Spottedkit, Ravenkit, and Gryffinkit are here!"

Whitepatch bounded over and stared at the new kits when a rustling from the bramble wall startled everybody as Doveheart and Blacktail of FireClan bounded in, looking injured.

"Please, Wingstar, help us," Doveheart pleaded weakly before collapsing. "ForestClan and CaveClan are attacking us."

Chapter 18

"Purplesight! Robinwing! Mudsplash! Snowheart! Nightsky! Sunfur! Crescentpaw!" Dragoncloud yowled. The cats she called rushed towards her.

"We will go straight into attack," she explained to them. "Another group will wait. They'll be our reinforcements."

"Naturesoul, you'll lead our reinforcements. Take Winterstorm, Mudpool, Dirtpelt, Grassbreeze, Blackfang, Runningpaw, Icepaw, and Owlpaw. The rest of you will guard the camp in case the attack comes here." she continued.

"Start reinforcing the nursery. Sizzlestorm, Petalflower, Dapplecoat, and Whiteclaw, be ready to protect your kits."

"Let's go!" Dragoncloud yowled, racing out of camp. Her warriors followed, and Naturesoul and his reinforcements followed farther behind. Doveheart and Blacktail were in the medicine den, being treated by Flakefall. Dragoncloud bounded towards FireClan camp.

The sounds of screeching cats loudened as they grew closer to the camp. When Dragoncloud managed to squeeze through the bramble gates, she saw the camp seriously outnumbered. Dragoncloud yowled and raced into battle. She tackled the cat that was on top of Blazepelt.

"Thanks," Blazepelt whispered as they fought. Blazepelt and Dragoncloud tag-teamed, biting and yowling. Dragoncloud spotted two cats, a white ForestClan tom and an orange CaveClan she-cat, hurling themselves towards Dragoncloud and Blazepelt. The white one leapt onto Dragoncloud.

"Dartspeed, stop!" Dragoncloud yowled, shoving Dartspeed off her.

Dartspeed seemed too crazed to hear her, and started raking Dragoncloud's side. Blazepelt and Birdfeather were trying to heave Dartspeed off Dragoncloud. They managed to, and Dartspeed's battle craze lifted.

"Why do we have to be in different clans?" Dragoncloud asked sadly. "If conflict arises, we have to fight."

Blazepelt nodded. "I hate this," he replied. "I hate our leaders forcing us to fight each other. I wish we were in the same clans."

Dragoncloud nodded. "We could-" she was cut off by a cat striking her in the back. She fell unconscious.

***

Dragoncloud opened her eyes to a starry setting. She seemed like she was floating, high above the ground. Dragoncloud started to worry as Dawnstar, Branchstar, and Heartclaw padded towards her.

"Dragoncloud," Heartclaw purred, trotting towards Dragoncloud and wrapping her tail around Dragoncloud's shoulder.

"I never knew that Brownnose was my mother," she whispered. "Nightsky and Sunfur are related to me. We have a quite large bloodline."

Dragoncloud nodded. She loved to travel to the elders' den to hear Brownnose's tales of being a rogue. Her mate was a cat named River, and they had two litters. Heartclaw, and two cats named Butterfly, and the last Sunset. Her second litter was Sunfur and Nightsky.

"Now Dragoncloud," Dawnstar began as Heartclaw padded back and rested next to Branchstar.

"This is important, Dragoncloud." Dragoncloud drew back a question.

"*A crescent, red as blood, will bring light to a new path one cat must follow.*"

"What does that mean?" Dragoncloud asked, but Heartclaw, Branchstar, and Dawnstar had already vanished. Dragoncloud took one last look at the starry landscape, then blackness overcame her.

***

Dragoncloud awoke in FireClan's medicine den. Goldenpaw was placing cobwebs on her back.

"Goldendraft, please be careful," Blazepelt asked. Goldenpaw must've received her medicine cat name. Goldendraft nodded, then pressed the cobwebs on to Dragoncloud's back more lightly. She brought back a chervil leaf and squeezed out the juice. She squirted it and rubbed it onto Dragoncloud's back wound.

"Once you're fully healed, feel free to leave." Blazepelt whispered. "Now, Twilightstar is calling a clan meeting."

As Blazepelt and Goldendraft trotted away to rest under what they called the Grandledge, Dragoncloud tried to stand up. She trotted forwards to the entrance of the den and tried to overhear what was going on.

"We have a guest right now in the medicine den," she mewed. "DawnClan's deputy, Dragoncloud. Apprentices, you will be in charge of her care. Change her moss and bring her food. We will care for our guest."

Twilightstar leapt off the Grandledge. Dragoncloud wobbled back to her nest as Magictail, Goldendraft, Blazepelt, and an apprentice carrying a vole in her jaws walked towards the medicine den. Magictail trotted deeper into the den with Goldendraft, while Blazepelt layed back next to Dragoncloud. The apprentice layed the vole at Dragoncloud's paws. Two warriors, Jayheart and Shardfreckle, trotted past. They had only become warriors a few moons ago.

"I am Stumpypaw. I was originally called Sappaw, but I lost my tail, so now I'm not allowed to climb trees and my name is now Stumpypaw. My warrior name will be Stumpytail. I already know it. Can you tell me and my littermates, Crosspaw and Deerpaw, some

stories?"

Stumpypaw was very cheery, even though she had lost her tail. Two other apprentices were poking their heads around the entrance to the den. Dragoncloud presumed they were Crosspaw and Deerpaw. The two apprentices trotted inside the medicine den and layed next to Stumpypaw. Stumpypaw was a pale she-cat with blue eyes, Crosspaw was a light black tabby tom with amber eyes, and Deerpaw was a she-cat with a light brown color pelt, similar to a deer's, with round, black eyes.

"So," Dragoncloud began, "back when Grapestar, Mousestar, Applestorm, and Spottedstar were still alive, we were being chased by them, frantically trying to escape. Dartspeed bolted past me and disappeared into the blackness of the forest. The round moon was high in the sky. Birdfeather was at my side, and we were running for our lives. Grapestar was on my tail, and I couldn't risk stopping. Blazepelt was not far in front of us. I frightfully ran straight into FireClan territory, not even noticing."

Blazepelt continued from there. "I was bolting for my life. I always kept checking to make sure Birdfeather and Dragoncloud were keeping up. Dartspeed, true to his name, was barely visible, even with his pure white pelt. I almost collided with a tree, but I swerved past. If I hadn't saw that, even a half-second afterwards, they would've caught me. Dragoncloud flicked her tail as she dashed ahead. *Please StarClan, let us live,* I prayed as we continued running."

Stumpypaw, Crosspaw, and Deerpaw were paying attention sternly, not distracted at all. Blazepelt continued telling until the part when they dashed into the shrub as Grapestar, Mousestar, Spottedstar, Applestorm, and Brownnose chased them. Dragoncloud comfortably purred.

"Dragoncloud," Blazepelt whispered as Deerpaw, Crosspaw, and Stumpypaw left the medicine den, "Birdfeather and I had kits."

Dragoncloud gasped in shock. Birdfeather had looked like she was getting plumper for a few moons.

"I agreed to give them to CaveClan," he continued. "Kits are usually

raised by their mothers."

It was true. When Dragoncloud was Dragonkit, her, Naturekit, Antkit, and Lapiskit were usually with Heartclaw, not their father, Clawtail.

"We had four kits. One is named Heartkit, after your mother Heartclaw, Frecklekit, after Dartspeed's mother Frecklepelt, Sapkit, after my mother Sapmaple, and Yellowkit, after Birdfeather's mother Yellowear. They were only born a little while ago, while you were asleep."

Dragoncloud nodded. Heartkit, and Heartclaw. Could it be possible..... No. StarClan couldn't reincarnate cats. Or could they? Dragoncloud stood up and stretched. She was fully healed.

"Want to come to the border?" she asked. Blazepelt nodded, then trotted after her.

***

Blazepelt and Dragoncloud padded side by side as they made their way towards DawnClan border.

"Blazepelt, there's something I have to tell you," Dragoncloud mewed. Blazepelt turned his head towards Dragoncloud curiously.

"While I was asleep, I received a prophecy," she meowed. "*A crescent, red as blood, will bring light to a new path one cat must follow.*"

Blazepelt looked at Dragoncloud questioningly. He tilted his head in confusion, then raised his head as DawnClan's familiar scent approached Dragoncloud's nose.

"Goodbye, Blazepelt," Dragoncloud whispered as she walked over the border.

A/N: Happy New Years, for all those people who aren't Chinese, I guess. Your new year isn't here yet. Anyways, to a happy 2017! My next chapter will be my first posted in the new year. See ya in 2017!

Chapter 19

Dragoncloud trotted into camp. Flakefall was standing next to Wingstar, who looked a little weak. Dragoncloud walked over to the two to find out what was going on.

"Dragoncloud," Flakefall meowed, "Wingstar lost a life in the battle."

Dragoncloud stared at Wingstar. She trotted back to her den under the Jaggedrock, stumbling whilst doing so. As she entered, Crescentpaw bounded over with Runningpaw at her side.

"Can you come with me, Runningpaw, and Dirtpelt to battle train?" she asked happily. Dragoncloud reluctantly nodded, then followed the apprentices. Coldkit, Tigerkit, Poppykit, Spottedkit, Ravenkit, Gryffinkit, Harekit, Summerkit, and Leopardkit were all playing together outside of the nursery. Petalflower had only just started nursing kits, so they wouldn't be born until after all of the current kits were apprentices.

Dirtpelt was standing just a little left of the entrance. He and Dragoncloud trotted behind, while Runningpaw and Crescentpaw chatted up ahead.

"I remember when we were apprentices," he mewed longingly. "Branchstar gave me my name. The last naming ceremonies were Antfoot, Naturesoul, Lapisfur, Grasspaw, and Robinpaw. Mousestar killed her."

Dragoncloud turned her head away. She hadn't told anyone *why* Mousestar wanted to kill Branchstar so badly. No one knew except for herself, Blazepelt, Birdfeather, Dartspeed, Mousestar, and Grapestar. Should she tell Dirtpelt? He was a moon older than her.

He was Birdfeather's age.

"Dirtpelt," Dragoncloud admitted, "I know why Mousestar was so determined to kill Branchstar."

She explained everything she learned with Blazepelt, Birdfeather, and Dartspeed. Dirtpelt listened curiously. It was quiet enough so that Crescentpaw and Runningpaw couldn't hear, but loud enough so Dirtpelt could.

"Wow," he gasped. "I never knew Grapestar, Mousestar, and Applestorm shared blood. You're also related to them, huh? So, Brownnose borne Heartclaw, who wandered off and came here. She was trained, then became a warrior. She traveled to the nursery when she fell in love with Clawtail and gave birth to you, Naturesoul, Lapisfur, and Antfoot. You also know that Clawtail was Wingstar's half brother. Same mother, different litter."

Dragoncloud was learning more and more about her bloodline. So, she was related to Wingstar and Grapestar. The only leader she wasn't was Branchstar. Dragoncloud gasped. Soon, the four arrived at the training hollow.

"What should we do? What battle move?" Crescentpaw asked, stretching. Runningpaw was right beside her, grooming his tabby pelt. Dirtpelt led Runningpaw about three fox-lengths away, and Dragoncloud stayed where she was, Crescentpaw at her side.

"Let's begin with the basics. First, remember, only sheathed claws. Let's test what you know." Dirtpelt explained. "Let's begin with this. Pretend we're ForestClan warriors."

Crescentpaw leapt straight for Dragoncloud, but she quickly dodged, and Crescentpaw landed in the dust. She scrambled up and leapt for Dragoncloud again, but Dragoncloud predicted it and dodged, so Crescentpaw flew past her.

"Make a move the enemy wouldn't expect." Dragoncloud replied, pulling Crescentpaw up. Crescentpaw backed up, her eyes on a branch overhead, then she leapt for Dragoncloud. She shifted, and Crescentpaw missed.

"Let's try again," Dragoncloud mewed patiently.

***

Dragoncloud returned with Crescentpaw at her side, Dirtpelt and Runningpaw close behind. As they arrived, though, a piercing cry rang through the camp as Sizzlestorm bounded outside the nursery, Tigerkit and Poppykit behind her.

"Coldkit is gone!" she cried.

Dirtpelt bounded over to Sizzlestorm, trying to comfort the she-cat. "Graytail! Grassbreeze! Icepaw!" Dragoncloud yowled.

Graytail, Grassbreeze, and Icepaw darted towards the deputy. "We're going to look outside the camp." she explained as she bounded out, Grassbreeze, Graytail, and Icepaw following.

Dragoncloud and Graytail trotted in one direction, Grassbreeze and Icepaw another. "Coldkit! Coldkit!" Graytail called. "Coldkit! Coldkit!" Dragoncloud joined in calling, worried for the kit. Sizzlestorm would be depressed for moons.

Dragoncloud poked her nose through shrubs and bushes, watching for the white kit. She heard weak mewling and bounded towards it, Graytail following.

Coldkit was laying weakly with purple berry smeared around her muzzle, while some berries layed a little while away. Dragoncloud realized what kind of berries they were. Deathberries!

"Graytail, watch Coldkit. I'll fetch some yarrow," Dragoncloud ordered, leaving the dying kit. She rushed around, staring at the leaves. She knew what yarrow looked like. Dragoncloud found a yarrow leaf, ripped it off its plant, and bounded back to Graytail and Coldkit.

"Too late," Graytail whispered as Dragoncloud returned. Coldkit's chest wasn't moving, and her eyes were unmoving. Dragoncloud dropped the yarrow leaf.

"May StarClan take good care of Coldkit," Dragoncloud mewed

sadly, picking up the dead kit by the scruff. She and Graytail paced back to camp quietly, as if it was a vigil for the kit.

Dragoncloud and Graytail returned. Grassbreeze and Icepaw had already returned and were standing next to Dirtpelt, trying to comfort her. Sizzlestorm was Grassbreeze's and Robinwing's mother.

Dragoncloud padded up to Sizzlestorm. Whiteclaw, who was soon returning to her warrior duties, Petalflower, Dapplecoat, and Blackwhisker were watching her sadly from outside the nursery. Dragoncloud layed Coldkit's body next to Sizzlestorm. The queen looked at her dead kit.

"Coldkit!" Sizzlestorm meowed, starting to lick the kit until she realized. "Why, StarClan, why?" she begged, hugging her dead kit. Wingstar trotted over.

Sizzlestorm picked up the kit's body and sadly followed Wingstar outside the camp. They were going to bury Coldkit.

Dragoncloud turned to the nursery. Tigerkit and Poppykit were still sitting there, looking worried.

"What's going to happen to Coldkit?" Tigerkit asked worriedly. "Where is he?"

Dragoncloud nuzzled the poor kit. "I'm sorry, Tigerkit, Poppykit, but Coldkit is with StarClan. He will always be with you both, though," she replied. Tigerkit and Poppykit turned around and slunk into the nursery, Harekit, Leopardkit, and Summerkit wanting to play.

Whitepatch, Briarshell, Keeneye, and Goldwhite were sitting away from the nursery, chatting. Dragoncloud stared at them, pricking her ears to listen.

"It was a good idea, showing Coldkit where those deathberries were," Goldwhite chuckled. "Great idea, Keeneye!"

"Thanks," Keeneye replied. "I mean, who believes in StarClan? They're just made up to entertain the kits."

All four burst into laughter. They didn't believe in StarClan! They

were the ones who showed Coldkit where to find the deathberries! They killed Coldkit! Dragoncloud yawned and ducked into the warriors' den for some sleep.

***

Dragoncloud opened her eyes. It was all black, except for Dawnstar, standing in front of her.

"Dawnstar," Dragoncloud asked, "what are the former kittypets planning to do? They killed Coldkit!"

Dawnstar sadly stared at Dragoncloud, like she felt sympathy for the deputy. "I am sorry, Dragoncloud," Dawnstar replied. "I cannot reach them, because they don't believe in I." She had a soothing tone that felt like song notes to Dragoncloud's ears.

"What about the prophecy?" Dragoncloud asked, but immediately, Dawnstar shook her head and vanished into the blackness. Dragoncloud yowled for Dawnstar, for Branchstar, for Heartclaw, for Clawtail, but nothing. The setting changed to a much darker scene.

Fang was grasping Dartspeed by the scruff in a large cave, many other cats watching her. "Who's ready for this cat to be killed?" she asked. The cats yowled mews of agreement. Dragoncloud jolted awake. She had to save Dartspeed!

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Dragoncloud skirted to a stop in front of the cave. She bounded in to see Fang about to sink her fangs into Dartspeed's neck. Dragoncloud rushed forwards and knocked Fang over. Two other ForestClan cats, Oakstorm and Mountiantail, were cowarding towards the left. Dragoncloud hissed at Fang.

"You almost killed him!" she yowled, clawing at Fang's face. Fang's cats seemed too scared to move. Fang chuckled and viciously clawed at Dragoncloud's side. It was extremely painful, so Dragoncloud collapsed and closed her eyes. Fang must have thought she was dead.

"Dragoncloud is dead!" she laughed. "Oakstorm, Mountaintail, Dartspeed, leave."

The three cats bounded away. Dartspeed took one last sorrowful look at her, then he bounded away.

"Let's go find another cave." Fang meowed. She lead the cats outside the cave and to the right, towards the cliff. Dragoncloud quickly stood up and stumbled back into the forest weakly.

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Dragoncloud collapsed and couldn't make it any farther once she arrived in ForestClan territory. Dartspeed was only a few fox-lengths away, so she called for him. Dartspeed turned around and bounded towards her.

"Dragoncloud, I thought you were dead," he mewed. Dragoncloud nodded. "Dragoncloud, I will come back with you. I'd like to join your clan."

Dragoncloud, too weak to care, just nodded, and balanced herself on Dartspeed's shoulder as they made their way towards DawnClan.

"I've already told Brightstar," Dartspeed mewed as they entered camp. "He's fine."

Dragoncloud collapsed in a moss next in Flakefall's den. She rushed over, shocked, and started working on her, while Dartspeed talked with Wingstar.

Chapter 20

Dartspeed layed calmly next to Dragoncloud, stroking her orange pelt. Dragoncloud suddenly awoke, staring around in fright. She didn't know who'd waken her up.

"It was me, silly," Dartspeed replied. They were laying in the medicine den quietly, Flakefall busily looking at herbs. She quickly rushed out, probably to go collect some herbs.

"Dragoncloud," he continued, "I was wondering if you'd like to become mates."

Mates?! Dragoncloud wanted to have kits, but she also wanted to stay in her warrior duties. She enjoyed the life of a warrior immensely, especially as a deputy.

"I will be right back with my decision," Dragoncloud replied, standing up and trotting outside.

Wingstar was talking with Lapisfur, and turned her head when Dragoncloud came closer. She trotted over to Dragoncloud once she came near.

"Dragoncloud," Wingstar asked, "can you make a patrol for ForestClan's border? I'm getting a little worried because they have been quite silent. I want to make sure they're not doing anything."

Dragoncloud nodded, then trotted over to the warriors' den. It was early morning, so everybody was still sleeping. The only cats awake were her, Wingstar, Dartspeed, and Flakefall. The three cats she wanted were huddled together in the corner, sleeping so close to another that their pelts were touching.

Dragoncloud shook each one of them awake quickly, then lead them outside. "Lapisfur, Naturesoul, Purplesight, we're going to ForestClan borders. Purplesight, can you go get Crescentpaw?"

Purplesight nodded then bounded away towards the apprentices' den, soon coming back with Crescentpaw. Crescentpaw looked excited and happy; it was her first border patrol, especially a ForestClan patrol. Dragoncloud led the patrol out of camp, climbing over roots and stepping on fallen leaves. It was leaf-fall; you'd expect those to be there.

Dragoncloud trotted forwards, her apprentice beside her. Dragoncloud loved Crescentpaw's personality. It reminded her of herself when she was an apprentice, always jumpy and excited to learn. As they traveled closer to the border, a strong scent overwhelmed her. It was ForestClan scent!

"Why is their scent here?" Lapisfur wondered aloud. "The border is still farther up."

After scanning the area, Dragoncloud spotted Leafclaw, the ForestClan deputy, with two other ForestClan cats, Leafleg and Rabbitwhisker, and an apprentice named Sweetpaw. They were marking the scent markers, but in DawnClan territory.

"What are you doing?!" Dragoncloud yowled angrily, racing towards the four cats. Lapisfur, Naturesoul, Purplesight, and Crescentpaw followed close behind, sprinting ahead quickly. Leafclaw and his patrol whisked their heads around to stare at the cats. Dragoncloud arched her back and unsheathed her claws, in case their was going to be a quarrel.

"ForestClan needs more prey and more territory," Rabbitwhisker responded. "We're remarking the borders."

"No, you are not!" Purplesight replied, hissing and spitting. He and Lapisfur were ready to leap on Leafleg, Naturesoul was hissing at Rabbitwhisker, the two deputies had anger and hatred stirring in their eyes, and Crescentpaw and Sweetpaw were swatting at each other.

"Patrol, attack!" Leafclaw yowled, leaping on Dragoncloud. Leafclaw unsheathed his claws and raked them down Dragoncloud's back. She bucked him off, then turned around and clawed at his face. Leafclaw hissed and nipped at Dragoncloud's ear, ripping off the

small tip. Dragoncloud whirled around and grabbed hold onto Leafclaw's tail, ripping off the end. She leapt onto him and clawed unforgivingly down his back. Leafclaw angrily whipped his head around and clawed just over Dragoncloud's right eye, so blood covered her right eye. Dragoncloud nipped at Leafclaw's leg.

"Retreat!" Leafclaw yowled, racing away. Rabbitwhisker, Leafleg, and Sweetpaw immediately turned around and followed the deputy, all badly injured.

"Let's get these wounds treated," Dragoncloud meowed, helping Purplesight up. "I'll send out a patrol to remark the correct border.

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Dragoncloud limped into camp, Crescentpaw balancing using her mentor's paw. Purplesight, Naturesoul, and Lapisfur were helping to balance each other, each one leaning on another's shoulder. Grassbreeze, Icepaw, Mudpool, and Owlpaw were leaving to go train in the training hollow. Icepaw and Owlpaw stared worriedly at the warriors, deputy, and their sister.

"Crescentpaw! What happened?" Owlpaw cried, rushing to her sister's side. Icepaw stared at his two sisters, worried for Crescentpaw.

"Well," Crescentpaw began, stumbling while she did so, "ForestClan marked borders in our territory, so we battled them. It was awesome! The apprentice I battled, she cried and pleaded for mercy after I pinned her down in a matter of seconds after the battle started! Now," she finally realized as her voice grew weaker, "we need to go to Flakefall like now."

Graasbreeze helped Dragoncloud towards the medicine den. Icepaw helped his sister, and Dirtpelt, who had been nearby with Runningpaw, helped Dragoncloud's brothers. Mudpool was helping Purplesight along as well. Runningpaw and Owlpaw trotted beside Crescentpaw, their expressions worried for their sister. Flakefall yowled in surprise as the five injured cats entered the medicine den.

Dirtpelt's face turned from helpful to sadness. He had always hated

to enter the medicine den, because his sister had died in there. Amberfang had died only a half moon ago, so her scent was fading, and her memory still lingered. Dragoncloud rested in a pile of moss close to the back of the cave the medicine den was located.

As Flakefall was treating Crescentpaw, Wingstar rushed in. She looked worried, but also angered. Her pawsteps were loud, and her claws were unsheathed. Wingstar's ears and tail were twitching with agitation and anger, and her expression showed it.

"What?!" she yowled angrily. "They remarked the borders?!"

The strongest out of all of them, Naturesoul, nodded a response. "They were two fox lengths closer than they were before."

"Wingstar," Dragoncloud continued, "I would like to send out a patrol to remark the scents. Can you ask Winterstorm, Robinwing, Blackfang, and Snowheart to go do it?"

Wingstar nodded, then bounded out and yowled loudly. Dragoncloud spotted Winterstorm, Robinwing, Blackfang, and Snowheart trotting out of camp. Dartspeed was staring inside, and when he spotted her, he raced in.

"Dartspeed," Dragoncloud whispered, "I know how Coldkit died. The kittypets, Goldwhite, Keeneye, Briarshell, Blackwhisker, and Whitepatch killed him." Dartspeed gaped at Dragoncloud.

"Really?" he asked.

"Yes." Dragoncloud replied. "Also, I received a prophecy: *A crescent, red as blood, will bring light to a new path one cat must follow*. What do you think it means? I've already told Blazepelt, and I think he'll tell Birdfeather."

Dartspeed shrugged, and Dragoncloud watched as Flakefall treated Lapisfur. Dragoncloud layed her head down on her paws and fell asleep quickly.

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Dragoncloud opened her eyes. Dawnstar was standing in front of

her, as if she was waiting for Dragoncloud.

"Hello," she greeted, trotting forward. "There are some StarClan cats that want to meet you. Follow me." Dawnstar turned around and trotted away, leaving Dragoncloud. Dragoncloud bounded after the DawnClan founder. Dragoncloud trotted until her paws were sore. She looked up and saw hundreds and hundreds of StarClan cats were staring straight at her.

"Huskystar! I have brought Dragoncloud!" she yowled. A gray tomcat with a white underbelly climbed out through the large group of StarClan cats.

"Hello, Dragoncloud." Huskystar mewed. His amber eyes were piercing. They made Dragoncloud wince.

"You and I share blood. We do." he continued. "Brightsoul, Brownnose's mother, is my kit's kit. And at least one kit of our litters always becomes leader. And, just know, it doesn't have to be leader of an actual clan."

Huskystar, Dawnstar, and all the cats of StarClan vanished before her eyes. Dragoncloud frantically searched the starry landscape, but no sight of any cat ended Dragoncloud's dream.

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Dragoncloud opened her eyes. She was still in the medicine den, but Lapisfur, Crescentpaw, Purplesight, and Naturesoul were gone. Flakefall was standing towards the front of the medicine den, but nothing else.

"Dragoncloud!" Flakefall mewed happily. "You've been asleep for three quarter moons! Robinwing filled in for you in Crescentpaw's training, and Winterstorm for deputy, but now you can do both again!"

Three quarter moons? Dragoncloud thought as she trotted outside. Wingstar was about to leap onto the Jaggedrock, but she spotted Dragoncloud.

"You're awake! I was just going to announce who's going to the

Gathering." Wingstar mewed, leaping onto the Jaggedrock. She yowled for a clan meeting. Dragoncloud sat at the very back of the cluster, not drawing attention to herself.

"First," she mewed, "Dragoncloud is awake. She will retake her position as deputy and Crescentpaw's mentor."

Crescentpaw must've spotted her, because she was blinding towards Dragoncloud.

"I can't believe you're awake!" she mewed, licking Dragoncloud.

"Second," Wingstar continued, "I would like Dragoncloud, Flakefall, Winterstorm, Lapisfur, Naturesoul, Graytail, Mudsplash, Dirtpelt, Runningpaw and Crescentpaw to come to the Gathering. Eat up and rest. We leave at moonrise."

Wingstar leapt off the Jaggedrock and entered her den, only after signaling for Dragoncloud to come. She trotted forwards, towards the den of her leader and former mentor.

"A lot has happened since you fell asleep," Wingstar mewed. "Losteye died, which saddened all of us. There has been sightings of foxes and dogs, and the Twolegs are building a new Thunderpath near CaveClan's territory. Now, do you want to share a rabbit?"